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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 101

TUESDAY APRIL 28, 2009

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the CNMI government's compliance with the Open Government Act?

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I N S I D E



New Portrait

New documentary shows that Iron Mike's most brutally relentless adversary always was himself.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19



Stalker Case

Tyra Banks is due in court to testify against a Georgia man accused of stalking her.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Sinapalo, Oleai top Chamorro Challenge Bowl. **PAGE 3**

Fitial administration gives Sablan more records. **PAGE 5**

Health alert on swine flu but no travel, pork bans yet

RELATED NEWS

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By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO and MONETH DEPOSA
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REPORTERS

The Department of Public Health issued yesterday a health alert on swine influenza or swine flu, which has so far killed 103 in

Mexico and 20 cases have been confirmed in the United States and six in Canada.

"If you get sick, especially if you develop a flu-like illness, avoid or limit contact with others and report to the hospital for immediate medical care. Be sure to tell them right

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Report: CNMI economy bleaker

'Possibility of NMI reinventing itself increasingly slim'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI economy paints a bleaker picture this year than last year, mainly because of immigration federalization, another 50-cent increase in the minimum wage in May, and the demise of the garment industry, a new First Hawaiian Bank economic forecast says.



Laney

Adding to the toxic mix are the grim economic indicators and the land alienation provision of the CNMI Constitution that discourages immigration and

foreign investment.

"It seems the now desperate CNMI

See **REPORT** on Page 4

Fitial appoints Inos as lt. gov; Senate could vote tomorrow

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary Eloy Inos could be the new lieutenant governor of the Commonwealth as early as tomorrow.

Gov. Benigno Fitial officially submitted Inos' name to the Senate yesterday.

Senate President Pete Reyes said Inos

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Inos

MHS wins JROTC state drill competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Marianas High School emerged as this year's champion in the 5th Annual Inter-Island Drill Competition, besting four other school teams during the contest held Saturday at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Lower Base.

More than 350 students participated in the

intense three-hour competition that featured six competitive events: unarmed regulation drill, armed regulation drill, color guard regulation, color guard saber, armed exhibition and unarmed exhibition.

MHS was also the recipient of special awards for fancy drill and exhibition rifle categories. MHS entered an 80-member team that com-

See **MHS** on Page 4



Marianas High School cadets pose for a group photo after bagging the top prize during the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Annual Drill Competition in Puerto Rico on Saturday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Local

Diff'rent strokes for diff'rent folks

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
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EDITOR

If you want to see any public document in CNMI government offices, be prepared for different experiences and treatment, ranging from the courteous to outright hostility and suspicion.

A recent survey conducted by the *Saipan Tribune*, called The Sunshine Project, highlighted the differing interpretations and procedures government agencies have in place when handling an OGA request.

Reporter Roselyn Monroyo recounts such a contrasting experience when asking for a copy of the Fiscal Year 2009 budget request of the Office of the Governor and the Northern Islands Mayor's Office:

"On March 30, 2009, I made a verbal request for a copy of the Governor's Office budget request for FY 2009 and I was asked to check on Charles Reyes.

"Charles asked me to go to Office of Legislative Review, and Rose Ada (no questions asked) provided me a copy of the FY 2009 budget (for all agencies) approved by the House. Since I was looking only for a copy of the budget request

of the Governor's Office, I was told to check on Esther Fleming.

"Fleming was busy with other stuff, so I waited for about 30 minutes to get the documents. While waiting, staff at the Governor's Office took turns asking if I needed anything to drink or if I have other business besides the document I wanted to get."

Monroyo got the document after less than an hour.

Hostile reaction

Her experience took a different turn with the Northern Islands Mayor's Office: She made a verbal request on March 30, 2009.

Since neither the Mayor nor the finance officer was there, she spoke with an adviser who told her to leave her contact details and he will have the finance officer call her.

"I waited for five days, but received no calls from the Northern Islands Mayor's Office. On April 6, I called the office and talked to the finance officer. My conversation with her went this way":

Finance officer: Why are you making a request for the FY 2009, which had already been passed?

Monroyo: It's for a pie graph presentation of FY 2009. Can I

get a copy from you?

FO: I don't think so. Only the mayor can approve the release of such document.

RM: OK, so I should be calling or writing a letter to the mayor?

FO: Go and write, but I don't think the mayor will approve it and release the document.

RM: It's all right, I will still try my luck.

FO: You are going to try your luck, ha!

The next day, Monroyo submitted an OGA request, then followed up on April 21. She has yet to receive the document as of press time.

Response time

Although the surveyors were instructed to as much as possible refrain from identifying themselves, the test survey showed that response time to an OGA request depends whether you're an ordinary member of the public or a media personnel.

At the CNMI Department of Labor, when *Saipan Tribune* assistant editor Mark Rabago asked if he could inspect the department's budget request for the previous fiscal year, he was

told that they normally don't give out documents like that "because they're confidential" and that he should forward his query to the Attorney General's Office instead.

"I didn't look that official or serious as I was wearing my customary shorts-and-T-shirt get-up as it was still early in the morning (9:30am). But after I showed my calling card and introduced myself as from the newspaper, the staff became more accommodating and accepted my OGA request and even stamped it 'received.'"

Boss' approval

In most instances, the release of a public document depends on the go-signal of the department head.

Reporter Nazario Rodriguez, when asking to see the current year's budget for the Rota Mayor's Office, was told by the chief of staff that he would consult with the Mayor first and ask his permission before releasing the document. The same response was obtained from the Division of Corrections, where the director's secretary said that she will refer the request to the director first for his approval. Both have yet to respond to the request.

It took reporter Ferdie dela Torre a total of three days to get the requested document from the Department of Cultural Affairs because they had to wait for the Secretary to approve the release of the document.

"The staff members were accommodating during the my visits but one staff expressed concern whether their office is being singled out," said dela Torre.

Written request

Verbal requests also do not seem to get any attention as much as a written OGA request. When reporter Haidee Eugenio asked the Public School System to see its budget for the current fiscal year, the Office of the Commissioner immediately asked her to put the request in writing. (As of April 22, PSS has yet to provide the document requested.)

At the Department of Public Works, Rabago made the initial verbal request on April 9 and he said he was given the run-around, from the Secretary's Office, to administration, to accounting.

"Accounting manager Margaret Cruz eventually told me that they don't normally release documents without getting a green light from their secretary, Diego Songsong. I went back to the Secretary's Office and his staff said the secretary was out and they will just forward my verbal request to him. I left my

'OGA case a frustrating, enlightening experience'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Tina Sablan, who sued the government in February over non-disclosure of records—some of which were ordered released by the Superior Court—said the Open Government Act case has been frustrating but also enlightening.

"I have become quite familiar with the tactics that agencies unfortunately use sometimes to try to confuse, mislead, or tire out people who seek information that such agencies would rather not disclose," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Greg Cruz, president of community watchdog Taotao Tano Group which, for three-and-a-half years has been invoking the Open Government Act to ask for government records on a number of issues, said only the Department of Public Lands has given them the runaround and refuses to release requested information.

He said the group is planning to file a lawsuit against DPL for non-disclosure of government records pertaining to homesteads and land compensation.

Cruz said all other government agencies they have asked data from have been "fair."

He said invoking the Open Government Act or "Sunshine law" has exposed corruption, mismanagement and illegal activities in the CNMI.

"Without the Open Government Act, CUC's extortion case wouldn't have happened," he said, referring to the case involving Tim Vilagomez who resigned as lieutenant governor over the weekend after he was found guilty of federal criminal charges on Friday.

Also found guilty were former Commerce Secretary James Santos and his wife Joaquina Santos, who is Vilagomez's sister.

Getting the records

Sablan said all agencies and departments, including the Office of the Governor, the

Department of Finance, and the Attorney General's Office, have dedicated and capable staff who take Open Government Act request for information and customer service seriously and respond right away to inquiries and requests for information.

"Whether or not these employees feel empowered to deliver information and answer questions, however, often depends on management. Sometimes I have found that even managers are hesitant about releasing information," Sablan said.

The lawmaker said every agency and department head should make it a point to read the Open Government Act.

The same officials, she said, also need to ensure that all staff members fully understand their duties and responsibilities to provide information under the statute, including their obligation to liberally construe the Open Government

Act in favor of disclosure, and to withhold information in only the narrowest of circumstances.

'Know your rights'

Sablan said concerned citizens play an extremely important role in the effort to open up the government.

"I think the first step for all of us is to know our rights: to read the Open Government Act, and understand the process for seeking out information, following up on requests, and appealing decisions if requests are denied," she said.

Continually asking questions about issues of concern, participating in public hearings and forums, attending legislative sessions, reporting public corruption, putting into office people who are truly committed to open government, organizing citizen watchdog groups, and effectively using the power of mass media to raise awareness about critical issues and influence policy decisions, are just a few ways for concerned citizens to do their part to create a more open and honest government.



Sablan



Cruz



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calling card and a promise the secretary will give me a call. But there was no call more than a week later it dawned on me that I forgot to give them my

OGA request. I drove immediately to the DPW office in Gualo Rai and submitted my OGA on April 21 and they have until April 30 to act on it."

Electric Charges and Rates (Effective 04/03/09)

ERRATUM

In the April 23, 2009, story, "Willens earned \$168K in '06-'07," some of the dollar amounts were incorrect. The 2006, 2007 and 2008 contracts for Howard Willens, special legal counsel to the governor, included an amount not to exceed \$12,000 per quarter in reimbursement for airfare, per diem and local transportation.

FITIAL

From Page 1

contacted him yesterday morning inquiring about his possible appointment to the position.

Under the CNMI Constitution, whenever there is a vacancy in the Office of Lieutenant Governor, the governor must appoint a successor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The position is currently vacant after Timothy P. Villagomez resigned from the office over the weekend, after he was found guilty of all charges relating to a scheme to defraud the Common-

wealth Utilities Corp. through needless purchases of a chemical called Ryd-lyme.

Reyes said he fully supports Inos as lieutenant governor and is holding a Senate leadership meeting today to work out the details. He has tentatively scheduled a special session on Wednesday to vote on the appointment.

Questions remain about technicalities of such an appointment, Reyes said. Under normal Senate confirmations, appointees must undergo background checks and drug tests, but he said he was not sure if that was needed in this case. Those are details to be worked out during today's meeting, he

added.

"I don't know, personally, I don't think there is any need for any of those formalities," the Senate president said.

'Jack of all trades'

Unlike the position of Attorney General, the Senate and the administration seem to be on the same page with the appointment and confirmation of Inos.

Asked why he supports the Finance Secretary to fill the position of lieutenant governor, Reyes said:

"Eloy is a jack of all trades. Eloy is a person that repairs any damages. He's the person that fixes everything that goes wrong.

Also, Reyes said, Inos is running as lieutenant governor with Fitial in November's election. By confirming Inos, the Senate is showing its respect that he is the natural choice for the appointment.

Fitial, in his appointment letter, said he believes Inos will do well as the next lieutenant governor of the CNMI.

"I am confident that Mr. Inos, with his many years of service in the Commonwealth government, will be an asset to my administration and serve ably on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth," the governor wrote. "I respectfully request your prompt and favorable action on this appointment."

MHS

From Page 1

peted in all six categories.

The school's battalion commander, Arielle Itibus, said their hard work finally paid off.

"We're glad that we made it! I can say that all our hard work and practices after school every day has paid off. I am so proud of the team," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Itibus said Saturday's event would

serve as a one of her memorable years with the team. The battalion commander, after four years of competing for MHS, would be completing high school this year.

"These awards bring the battalion members closer to one another," she said, adding that the annual contest motivates each team to give a better performance every year.

Named overall second best team was the Saipan Southern High School, which also bagged two special awards in unarmed and armed drill competi-

tion. The group was headed by its commander, Kathlene Pagara.

The 27-member team from Rota High School, led by battalion commander John Ayuyu, emerged third best battalion and was named best in color guard saber competition.

Fourth placer Kagman High School was an awardee in the color guard rifle competition, while the Tinian High School team won fifth place. KHS' battalion commander was Jessica Babauta, while Terilynn Taisacan led the Tinian delegation.

According to CNMI JROTC program director and the event's keynote speaker, Lt. Col. Robert Gay, Saturday's event was the program's biggest competition in the Commonwealth so far.

Like the recently concluded spring camp on Saipan, Gay said the annual drill aims to promote unity and teamwork among students.

PSS, he said, covered the expenses for cadets from Rota and Tinian to ensure their participation in the annual event.

Education commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan and members of the Education

Board were among the event's special guests.

The drill competition aims to promote discipline and leadership skills, develop self-confidence, teamwork, and camaraderie among peers. All contest categories are based and rated according to U.S. Army manuals and regulations.

A four-member team from JROTC Tinian will compete in a national contest in Washington, D.C. in June. Gay said the delegation is the first for the CNMI in the national JROTC academic contest.

REPORT

From Page 1

economy must now, more than ever, find some way to reinvent itself. And the possibilities for this are increasingly slim," said Dr. Leroy O. Laney, economic adviser to the First Hawaiian Bank.

Neighboring Guam, however, stands out as one of the few places in today's world that has a brighter economic future, primarily due to a massive planned military buildup, said Laney.

"Nonetheless, Guam has not escaped the fallout from the global economic deterioration," he said in a statement yesterday.

Laney, who is also a professor of economics and finance at Hawaii Pacific University, said last year's economic report on the CNMI paints a bleak picture.

"This year, if anything, the situation is worse," he added.

Negative impacts

The eight-page economic forecast said the negative impacts of the federalization program described in the 2008 report have aggravated the situation, and the garment industry is now gone entirely. The gradual imposition of a U.S. minimum wage means that an economy that once survived on low wages must find some other means of support, it added.

Emerging markets for CNMI tourism will also be impacted negatively by the exclusion of both China and Russia from the federal visa waiver program scheduled for Nov. 28, 2009.

After Nov. 28, 2009, foreign workers whose contracts expire will be subject to U.S. immigration law. The CNMI minimum wage also will be raised in annual increments of 50 cents in May of each

year until it reaches the federal level.

"Because the CNMI has survived on low wage labor, this will have a debilitating effect on its economy," Laney said, and may see substantial population shrinkage as a result.

With significant economic growth now expected in neighboring Guam, even many local residents may leave to go where the jobs are, he added.

Another factor is the garment industry's demise. In March 2009, the last factory closed for good. Thus, what was once a \$1 billion industry with 34 factories ceased to exist.

The last user fee collected by the CNMI government came in February 2009 with only \$746, down from about \$3 million a month in the days before the industry started shrinking.

One-legged economy

Without the garment industry, the CNMI economy now relies solely

on tourism.

Laney noted that total visitor arrivals increased by a slight 2 percent in 2008, something of a rarity in these times. Japan arrivals went up 6.6 percent and Korea went up 2.6 percent due to increased air seats.

"With seats held constant in late 2008 and early 2009, Korea arrivals have been down well into double digits due mainly to exchange rate effects, just as for Guam," he added.

Both hotel occupancies and room rates saw a slight increase in 2008.

"But another major problem now looms for the CNMI visitor industry. The new visa waiver problem includes Japan and Korea, but excludes China and Russia, and the CNMI has been counting on the latter two as emerging markets," said Laney.

The CNMI economic indicators bear out the grim picture, including a 12-percent drop in vehicle sales, a

15-percent drop in bank deposits and a 13-percent decline in bank loans.

The First Hawaiian Bank's economic forecast also said that Article XII of the CNMI Constitution, which restricts permanent and long-term real property ownership to those of Northern Marianas descent, "naturally...discourages immigration and foreign investment, discouraging the injection of new funds and talent into an economy that so desperately needs them."

First Hawaiian Bank is one of the largest banks in Micronesia with three branches on Guam and two on Saipan. The bank has total assets of approximately \$13.4 billion and ranks in the top 10 percent of all U.S. banks in terms of its strong credit quality, earnings and capital.

A complete copy of the 2009 Economic Forecast is available at www.fhb.com or any First Hawaiian Bank Branch.

HEALTH

From Page 1

away that you might have the flu," Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said in a two-page health alert.

But as of yesterday, there's no temporary ban on pork products from the United States or restrictions on travel, deputy secretary for hospital administrator Pete Untalan and Quarantine director Richard Seman told *Saipan Tribune* separately.

"Right now, we elevated surveillance at the hospital, tightened testing, and monitor for advisories and pass them on to other agencies," said Untalan, who is also the director of Public Health Emergency Preparedness.

Business as usual

It's business as usual at the Saipan International Airport, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain F. Camacho, who said they have not implemented any significant changes to their operation as of yesterday noon.

Camacho said his office has not received either a notice of warning nor spe-

cific instructions from federal authorities in relation to the swine-flu issue.

"I haven't seen any notice of warning [for our airports] from any federal agency. CPA cannot implement such orders or changes without actually receiving a formal alert notice from authorities and concerned agencies," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that he has yet to receive any advisories restricting travel to other destinations.

However, Camacho disclosed that CPA has been called to an emergency meeting today at the Department of Public Health. He believes the health department should spearhead the planning for such action.

He said an action plan for the CNMI may be cleared after today's meeting.

Saipan seaport manager MaryAnn Q. Lizama said the ports are also operating without any delay relating to a specific notice or warning regarding shipments that may carry the virus.

Flu-like symptoms

Despite the name swine influenza, this is a disease that is spread from person to person, like the regular flu.

The infection causes a flu-like severe respiratory disease, with fever

and cough, and may lead to difficulty breathing and even death.

Other symptoms may include sneezing, body aches, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and tiredness.

Villagomez said those who recently traveled to an affected area and develop symptoms within seven days since they left the affected area should seek medical care immediately and let hospital staff know about their travel history.

Mexico, the United States and Canada have reported outbreaks of swine flu.

The health secretary also said any unusual number of flu-like illnesses in the community should be reported to the Department of Public Health.

Protecting yourself

Swine flu is spread from person to person through touching, coughing, sneezing or talking while you are sick. Thus, it is important to observe the following:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze
- Wear a mask if you are sick
- Avoid close contact with sick people, including standing closer than 6 feet, touching, kissing and hugging.

"If you think you have the flu, don't report for work, stay home, and see a doctor. If your child has a flu, don't let him or her go to school to prevent spreading it to other children," said Untalan in a phone interview.

Public Health said there are medicines that can help fight the infection, but they only work if given quickly and are only available from a doctor, so one must seek care right away.

There is no vaccine for this disease yet. Authorities are working to develop a vaccine as quickly as possible, the department added.

Safe to eat pork

Public Health said it is safe to eat pork because swine flu is not spread by pork meat.

"Pork that is handled properly and cooked thoroughly is safe to eat," the department said.

Quarantine director Richard Seman said there is no ban on pork from the United States at this time.

Yesterday, the Philippines imposed a temporary ban on the entry of pork from Mexico and the United States in the wake of a swine flu outbreak in these countries.

Health officials around the world worked to contain what appears to be a spreading swine flu outbreak early Monday, while one out of every five residents of Mexico's most populous city wore masks to protect themselves against the virus, CNN reports.

In Mexico, as many as 103 deaths are thought to have been caused by swine flu, the country's health minister said. An additional 1,614 reported cases have been reported in the country but only 18 cases have so far been confirmed by laboratory tests and reported to the World Health Organization.

The United States stepped up preparations for a possible epidemic of the virus after 20 cases were confirmed, and Canada announced its first cases of the virus Sunday -- six mild cases.

The H1N1 strain of swine flu is usually associated with pigs. When the flu spreads person-to-person, instead of from animals to humans, it can continue to mutate, making it harder to treat or fight off.

What worries officials is that a new strain can spread fast because people do not have natural immunity and vaccines can take months to develop. (With AP)

Fitial administration gives Sablan more records

By KRISTI EATON

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REPORTER

The CNMI government has handed over more documents to Rep. Tina Sablan relating to the government's federalization lawsuit.

Sablan, who filed a lawsuit in Superior Court, received the first change order contract for Howard Willens, the governor's special legal counsel who, as part of the Jenner & Block firm, is repre-

senting the CNMI in the lawsuit against the federal government.

The federalization lawsuit seeks to halt the extension of U.S. immigration laws to the Commonwealth.

In October, Sablan, citing the Open Government Act, asked Gov. Benigno Fitial to produce copies of all contracts related to the lawsuit, including any contracts between the CNMI government and Jenner & Block, as well as any private attorneys or

law firms involved in the suit.

She also asked for documents on payments made on the contracts and the funding sources. She called on the governor to identify government agencies that have had their funds reprogrammed to fund the lawsuit, and the amounts of money taken from them.

In addition to Willens' contract change order, the administration released a privilege log of information to Sablan.

The privilege log, according to Assistant Attorney General Braddock J. Huesman who is representing Fitial and Inos, contains "[a]ll records identifying the department(s), agency(ies), and/or instrumentality(ies) of the CNMI government from which public funds have been reprogrammed to the Governor's operating account #1011-6250."

The administration has repeatedly refused to release the actual documents listed in the privilege

log because they are not discoverable, and, therefore, exempt from the Open Government Act.

"The Commonwealth is only seeking the same protection from its adversaries as the federal courts in the District of Columbia provide for the litigants before them, the right to keep litigation budgets and expenses secret from the opposing party," Huesman wrote.

The log lists 34 items, and gives the document packet number, type of document, date, description and privilege claimed.

The first item listed is a five-page engagement letter/contract/retainer dated June 6, 2008. Among the 34 item descriptions are billing invoices; voucher/payments; memos to the finance secretary from the governor; supplier payment inquirer; and letter to Bank of Guam from A. Calvo.

There are also several entries listing "Account Ledger Fund Status." The last entry, dated April 21, is "Account Ledger Office of Gov. Fund Status."

Last week, Sablan received three of Willens' past contracts.

Sentencing of Guerrero not yet determined

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

There is no sentencing schedule yet with respect to former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony C. Guerrero.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley told *Saipan Tribune* that the sentencing of Guerrero has not been determined yet.

Guerrero was among the U.S. government's key witnesses in the jury trial of former Lt. Gov.

Timothy P. Villagomez, his sister Joaquina, and her husband James A. Santos.

Guerrero was the last witness called by the prosecution.

Villagomez, the Santos couple, and Guerrero were accused of engaging in a scheme to bilk the CNMI government out of thousands of dollars with a series of needless chemical purchases. Villagomez and the Santos couple were also charged with bribery.

Villagomez and the Santos

couple went to trial. Last Friday, the jury found the three guilty of all charges. Their sentencing was set for July 28, 2009.

Guerrero entered a plea deal on Aug. 11, 2008, with the U.S. government. He pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy, which carries a sentence of up to five years in prison.

Guerrero's sentencing was originally set for Feb. 27, 2009. But U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex

R. Munson in January ordered that Guerrero's Feb. 27 sentencing be taken off-calendar. Munson the stated that the sentencing will be rescheduled at a later date.

The judge ordered the delay after Guerrero's counsel, Robert T. Torres, and O'Malley, asked to reset the sentencing hearing.

Torres and O'Malley agreed that postponing the sentencing hearing until after the conclusion of that trial would be appropriate.

Munson approved the agreement of the parties to reset the sentencing.

Tinian told to justify \$700K spent on research study

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

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REPORTER

The U.S. Office of Insular Affairs wants Tinian lawmakers and officials to justify over \$700,000 in federal funds they used in conducting a research study on the island.

Tinian Legislative Delegation chairman Sen. Joseph Mendiola confirmed this following a meeting with visiting OIA officials last week.

Tinian lawmakers in 2006 approved the funding of an assessment impact study to determine the feasibility of using a certain portion of the military land as site of the island's new landfill.

Saipan Tribune learned that a draft lease agreement between Tinian and the military was then forwarded to the U.S. Department of Defense for approval.

Mendiola admitted that the federal agency took some time to respond to the request until local lawmakers were informed of its "disagreement."

OIA, he said, raised concern on the \$700,000 spent on the assessment study commissioned by the Tinian delegation for the landfill project.

"OIA asked that we justify this expenditure of over \$700,000. They said that we already spent money for the landfill project and we're looking at spending additional money for the same project," Mendiola said.

The delegation chairman disclosed that the decision to approve the assessment study on the identified landfill site was made even before the military buildup surfaced.

"When we negotiated the lease or the designation of that military property, the military had yet to decide on the move-

ment," he said.

About 8,000 Marines are scheduled to be transferred from Okinawa Japan, to Guam as part of the military buildup. This plan is seen to economically benefit the CNMI—particularly Tinian—as two-thirds of the island may be used for military training and other exercises.

Mendiola admitted that after the disclosure of the military buildup, the assessment study was never put to use.

The Tinian delegation later identified a public land as the new site of the landfill project.

The military officials, Mendiola said, had bared the possibility

of closing access to the military land for their training exercises.

"It would be more costly for Tinian if we will identify a temporary landfill site during these trainings. A permanent site has to be identified," he said.

However, the Tinian lawmaker said OIA "is still supportive" of the landfill project.

A justification will soon be forwarded to the OIA officials, according to the delegation chairman.

The delegation has informed the visiting officials of its recent decision to suspend the instrument landing system project and, Mendiola said, the decision

was respected and supported by the OIA.

"We informed them about the ILS suspension...and they understand. We cited the funding concern for the project and they expressed support," he said.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW09-IFB-011

CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 31 CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 1, SAIPAN CM-NH-0031 (013)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Route 31 Cross Island Road Phase 1, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (SAIPAN).

The project package will be available on or after April 28, 2009 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wages rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wages as required by the CNMI law & Federal Law.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on March 15, 2009, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Gualo Rai Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 22, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW09-IFB-011". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 10, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 10, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 10, 2009, and must be received no later than June 19, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 24, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on June 16, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI.

Performance time for completion of this project is three hundred (300) working days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specification for Construction Roads and Bridges on Federal Project, FP-96, or \$1,400.00 whichever is greater.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Port of Saipan
CAPT. GEORGE F. FLEMING MEMORIAL BUILDING
Phone: (670) 664-3550 Fax: (670) 322-4710
E-Mail Address: cpa.portadmin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION TO BID

Bid No. CPA SS-09-V

"Sale of Government Property"

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is inviting interested individuals or firms to bid on the following vehicle:

2002 Ford Explorer 5WGN 6 Cylinder Engine

Interested individuals or firms may pick-up the general information and forms at the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Port of Saipan building at the Seaport. Bidders are also advised to inspect the property. All interested bidders should submit bid documents no later than May 15, 2009, 4:00 p.m., to:

Efrain F. Camacho, P.E.
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
Saipan International Airport
2nd Floor Arrival Building

Efrain F. Camacho, P.E.
Executive Director

AMP to host \$747K solar power pilot project

CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan is applauding the decision to invest \$747,000 in stimulus money in a solar electricity project at American Memorial Park.

"I congratulate Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on his selection of the American Memorial Park as one of the National Park Service locations that will receive money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," said Sablan.

The \$747,000 will allow the

Park Service to install a grid-connected solar array at the Visitors Center on Saipan. A grid-connected array can send any excess electricity produced by the solar panels and not needed by the Visitors Center back into the island power network.

"This is a particularly timely decision by Secretary Salazar," Sablan said. "Earlier this month the Park Service announced that the Visitor Center at American Memorial Park would have to close for part of the week, be-

cause of the cost of electricity. I immediately put my staff to work to look for ways to use Recovery Act money to address the closure. And now the Park will be making its own electricity.

"This is good for our tourism industry; because the Visitor Center can certainly be one of the highlights for tourists visiting Saipan and interested in our history.

"This is good for our power system; because it will reduce the load on CUC generators.

"This is good for the development of alternative forms of electrical production in the Marianas; because the project will demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of a grid-connected solar electric system.

"It will also be a test case for the durability of larger scale photovoltaic systems in a tropical environment, which is a question often raised about this form of alternative energy."

The American Memorial Park is already using smaller scale

solar power. The street lights in the Visitors Center parking area each has its own solar panel and battery storage system.

All together the National Park Service plans to invest \$750 million around the country to stimulate the economy, generate jobs, and protect the places of natural and historic importance, which are the responsibility of the Parks.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, passed by Congress in February, also has

as a primary objective moving America to greater energy efficiency and more sustainable forms of energy production.

The Northern Marianas congressman has been a strong supporter of the Recovery Act and of President Obama's overall economic plans for the nation.

For more information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and how it is benefiting the people of the Northern Marianas go to <http://sablan.house.gov>. (PR)

PSS approves 20-minute extension for ESL Praxis takers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Non-highly qualified educators who are not natural English-speakers will now be given 20 more minutes to complete the Praxis test after the Board of Education approved a request from the Association of Commonwealth Teachers.

Board of Education vice chair Herman T. Guerrero disclosed the decision to *Saipan Tribune*, adding that Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan has already sent a memorandum to school principals telling them of the extension.

"A memo has been sent out to the school principals on that matter," he said after Thursday night's board meeting.

He said the commissioner is now determining the number of affected teachers and she is expected to work on this with the testing centers.

ACT president and vice principal of San Vicente Elementary School Betty Miller described the decision as appropriate and acceptable.

"This is one of several recommendations ACT made in our research project. ... This means teachers who are certified as ESL through Northern Marianas College will now be granted a 20-minute time extension during exams. As the majority of the teachers in the CNMI are non-native English speakers, ACT felt this accommodation was appropriate and acceptable. We do not believe allowing a few extra minutes to read something carefully on an exam that is not in your native language affects the integrity of the exam or the test taker's ability to teach the subject matter," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Highly qualified teacher requirements are set by the PSS in its goal to meet the federal

mandate of the No Child Left Behind Act. These personnel must obtain a degree, valid teaching certificates, and passed the Praxis tests.

During Thursday's board meeting, Sablan said that ACT has four concerns regarding the HQT policy: what PSS can do to help non-HQT teachers, the seemingly "high" test scores set by the policy, the time allowed for non-English test takers, and the restoration of teachers' salary.

Of these concerns, restoring the salary of teachers is the least likely to be considered, at least for now.

"I don't believe the majority of the board would support the proposal... because I feel it's not fair to those who already passed the requirement. It would serve as an 'injustice' to those who have passed the test. It's like they're changing the rules in the middle of a game," Guerrero said.

Miller, during the board meeting, emphasized that the association has not yet been given the opportunity to present or discuss its research project and recommendations to the full board.

The BOE in 2006 slashed the salaries of teachers who have yet to pass the Praxis test and comply with the other HQT requirements.

"The board and the PSS need to be cautious on this matter... because we need to clarify what our intentions are: Are we more interested in providing them the salary or teaching our kids?" Guerrero asked.

The U.S. Department of Education has given PSS until July 31, 2011, to meet the highly qualified teacher mandate, which requires all teachers in subject areas to be HQT.

Sablan, during the meeting, reported that PSS has scheduled various teachers' institute to better assist non-HQT personnel.

Okada named 2009 Businesswoman of the Year

Lorraine S. Okada is the 2009 First Hawaiian Bank *Guam Business* Businesswoman of the Year.

Lorraine S. Okada is the executive manager of Carlsmith Ball LLP. She also owns and operates her own consulting business, Managing Consulting Services, which she started in 2000. The company specializes in human resources, training and development, sales and marketing.

Okada started her career at the Bank of America in 1969 in a clerical position before gradually working her way up to the position of assistant vice president of human resources in 1979. She joined Bank of Hawaii in 1986 as vice president of human resources, community and government relations. She was promoted to vice-president and manager at the Bank of Hawaii in 1998, before moving to her current position at Carlsmith Ball LLP in December 2001.

Okada was president and chairwoman of the board of Make-A-Wish Foundation of America from 2002 to 2005, founding president of the Guam Society for Human Resource Management and president of the American Institute of Bank-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lorraine S. Okada is presented the 2009 First Hawaiian Bank *Guam Business* Businesswoman of the Year award in front of more than 300 people in a packed ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

ing Guam chapter. She has been the chairwoman of the Guam Community College Foundation Board, the Guam Workforce Investment Board and the Guam Industry Liaison Group. She is a member of the advisory counsel to the Guam Trades Academy and sits on the Guam Education Policy Board at the Guam Chamber of Commerce. She has also been on the board of directors of the Guam Housing Corp. and the Department of Chamorro Affairs.

Okada has been the recipient of a host of awards from different organizations, notably the 1988 presidential award from

Soroptimists of the Marianas; the 1989 Hall of Fame award from the American Institute of Banking and the 1993 Award for Professional Excellence from Society of Human Resources Management Guam.

Her partner is Richard K. Cruz and she has five children: Peter John Sanchez, 39; Jerome John Okada, 30; Joel John Okada, 28; Davina Jean Okada, 25 and Jason Cruz, 35.

She joins prior year award recipients Julianne Rose Perez Duenas, physical therapist, owner and clinical director of Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation Inc., 2008; Christine Won

Pat Baletto, general manager of Market Wholesale Distributors, 2007; and Katherine Calvo Sgro, executive vice president and chairwoman of the board for Pay-Less Markets Inc., 2006.

The First Hawaiian Bank *Guam Business* Businesswoman of the Year program, now in its fourth year, raises funds for scholarships for the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and the Northern Marianas College.

Okada received the Maga'haga award in front of more than 300 people in a packed ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Guam. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Marianas High School schedule

April 27-May 1 SAT10 Tests (Grade 9 and 11)

May 2 MHS Incoming Freshmen Orientation 9am-12pm (MHS Gym) parents and students will participate in a campus tour. They will have an opportunity to meet with the teachers and follow their child's class schedule. Lunch will be provided.

May 4-15	Advanced Placement Exams
May 18-22	PSS SBA Tests
May 25	No classes (Memorial Day)
June 11	Graduation Ceremony
June 15	End of 4 th Quarter

For questions and concerns contact 237-3206.

Palau VP wants to meet with citizens on Saipan

This is to inform all Palauans residing in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the Honorable Kerai Mariur, Republic of Palau Vice President, is here on Saipan on an official trip and wants to meet all the Palauans in CNMI today, April 28, Tuesday, at the Minachum Atdao, Kilili Beach Pavilion, Susupe, from 6pm to 10pm. Contact the Palau Consulate for information at 235-6804. (PR)

NMC Charter Day Committee extends deadline for vendors

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Committee is inviting different agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations to participate in the upcoming Charter Day celebration. Organizations may purchase booth space for the following categories: food/drink, specialty drinks (e.g. coffee coolers or pearl shakes), games booths, and retail (arts and crafts, toys, etc). The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces has been extended to Friday, May 1, 2009.

The Charter Day Celebration will be held on May 8, 2009, at the As Terlaje Campus from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The event is one of NMC's largest and most-attended events. This year, the celebration will showcase a broad range of entertainment, including a variety of live band performances, cultural dance presentations, and highly anticipated

competitions, such as Marianas Idol, CNMI's Best Dance Crew, and the Battle of the Bands. Groups may reserve booth space by paying the \$100 one-time fee (which covers the tent booth and access to 110v electricity outlets). For more information, please contact Perry Inos at 234-5498 ext. 1253 or email perryi@nmc-net.edu. (NMC)

English and Math placement test schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English and Math placement tests on the following dates:

English Placement Tests

April 28	Tuesday	1pm - 4pm
		Room D-1
April 29	Wednesday	5pm - 8pm
		Room D-1
May 14	Thursday	1pm - 4pm
		Room D-1
		5pm - 8pm
		Room D-1

Math Placement Tests

May 19	Tuesday	10am - 12pm
		Room D-1
		5pm - 7pm
		Room D-1
May 21	Thursday	10am - 12pm
		Room D-1

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

There is a \$25 fee each for the English and Math Placement Tests that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions about the English Placement Test, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242.

If you have any questions about the Math Placement Test, call Glenn Keaton at the Sciences, Mathematics, Health, & Athletics Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1200 or Hera Ogo at Ext. 1212. (NMC)

Workers' rally ahead of US House hearing on NMI federalization law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Organizers of the workers' rally set for May 1 say they want their voices heard ahead of a U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife's May 19 oversight hearing on the implementation of the federalization law in the CNMI.

The workers' groups want protection for nonresidents during the transition period and a pathway to permanent immigration status.

"Families must not be divided, and our U.S. citizen children

must be protected," said United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed in a statement.

Friday's May Day Rally, led by the United Workers Movement-NMI, will start 6pm at the Garapan Fishing Base, to be followed by a march to the American Memorial Park.

Syed yesterday said the confirmed guests, who will speak at the American Memorial Park, are Rep. Tina Sablan, Ed Propst, Ron Hodges, Atty. Steve Woodruff, and Simon Sin.

Besides the United Workers Movement-NMI, other groups participating in the rally are

Dekada, Human Dignity Movement, Pilcowa, and the Chinese, Bangladeshi, Nepalese and Korean communities.

Syed said by holding the rally on May Day, guest workers, immediate relatives of US and Federated States of Micronesia citizens and their supporters will be one with millions of people across the globe who will rally for political and social justice.

"The leaders encourage all guest workers, IRs and their supporters to join the rally so that their voices will be heard in Washington, D.C. ahead of the May 19th House hearing," he said.

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife led by Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo will hold an oversight hearing on the implementation of Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law in the CNMI.

Florida-based human rights activist Wendy Doromal will be bringing thousands of letters from CNMI guest workers, U.S. citizen children of nonresidents, CNMI permanent residents, immediate relatives of U.S. and FSM citizens and supporters to the subcommittee hearing. These letters, along with a written state-

ment, will be her testimony.

"Anyone who supports human dignity and justice can show their support by joining the march," said Doromal in a statement yesterday. "I am extremely happy that all of the groups are coming together with one voice."

Ronnie Doca, board chair of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said a special message from Doromal will be read during the rally and KN Mikel of the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) will lead a prayer before the march to American Memorial

Park on Friday.

"Our reason to have this rally is not to bring harm or to step into anyone's toes. We just want to express our rights to voice our concerns to the feds. We came to this island legally and we are paying taxes. For so many years that we have been here, we contributed a lot to the community, like cleanup drives in the beaches and parks," he said.

May Day, which occurs on May 1, is synonymous with International Workers' Day or Labor Day, which celebrates the social and economic achievements of the labor movement.

Fitial: We should be proud of PIDB's solvency, resiliency

Regional officials on Saipan for board of governors, directors meeting

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the region should be proud of the solvency and resiliency of the Pacific Islands Development Bank at a time when major U.S. banks have fallen, at the meeting of the PIDB's board of governors and directors yesterday.

PIDB's loan portfolio is at \$5 million, while the delinquency rate is merely 2 percent, Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. quoted PIDB president Aren Palik as saying.

"The bank has made substantial improvements," Reyes added.

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, Palau Vice President Kerai Mariur, Yap Governor Sebastian Anefal, Pohnpei Lt. Gov. Churchill Edward, Chuuk Gov. Wesley Simina, Kosrae Gov. Robert Weilbacher and other dignitaries attended the meeting at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao.

PIDB, which was created by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in July.

"That is 20 years of service, helping to develop and grow economies throughout our region: the economies of the member states - Guam, the CNMI, the Republic of Palau,

and the Federates States of Micronesia, including Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap," said Fitial in his remarks.

Others present included Chuuk Speaker Singkoro Harper, Thomas Pablo, Palau Delegate Cecilil Eldebechel, Yap Speaker Charles Chieng, Yap director designate Michael Gaan, Guam Sen. Ben Pangelinan, Guam director for administration Lourdes Perez, Kosrae Sen. Ilai Abraham and Kosrae Sen. Gibson Siba.

Newly appointed CNMI Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and Rep. Diego

T. Benavente were also at the meeting.

Fitial said PIDB's 20-year existence is a reflection of the strong ties and co-operation throughout the region.

He cited as other examples of strong regional cooperation the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, which was recently expanded to include more regional members, and the Pacific Mayors Conference, which will be held on

Saipan next month.

"In an age when major U.S. banks have fallen, including Wachovia, Washington Mutual, and, yes, even Bank of America and Citibank, we should be very proud of the solvency and resiliency of our regional bank," he said.

The governor said some private financial institutions, including some sub-prime lenders, may take issue with PIDB's existence, but the bank's presence in the region represents a net benefit to the people of Micronesia.

"We need more competition in our local financial markets, and private financial companies should not be afraid to compete for customers," he added.

PIDB aims to promote economic and social development throughout the region by providing capital to businesses and consumers.

"I encourage the bank's continued prudent allocation of capital for economic and social development in the regions, and I congratulate our board of governors and directors for the success we have experienced over the past 20 years," said Fitial as he called on them to "continue working to make the next 20 years more successful for PIDB and our member states."



Fitial

MCS students participate in nat'l competition on US Constitution



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2009, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, National Finals, Team Photo.

About 1,100 high school students from all 50 states and the Northern Mariana Islands will test their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights during the 22nd annual We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals.

Students from Mount Carmel School of Saipan won the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands competition to advance to the national finals.

The first-round hearings was held this past weekend, April 25 and April 26, at Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

The top-10 finalists' Championship Round will be held today

(Tuesday, Saipan time) at the Cannon House Office Building, Room 122, Capitol Hill, immediately followed by an awards banquet.

Students serve as expert witnesses testifying on constitutional issues in a simulated congressional hearing. To reach the national finals, classes won first place in state competitions. Students are scored on their opening statements and on answers to follow-up questions by a panel of judges, who grade the students on understanding, constitutional application, reasoning, supporting evidence, responsiveness, and participation. The national finals judges

include state Supreme Court judges, public officials, political scientists, historians, educators, attorneys, journalists, and We the People alumni.

Implemented nationally in upper elementary, middle, and high schools, the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program has reached more than 30 million students and 81,000 teachers in its 22-year history. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act approved by Congress. The program is directed by the Center for Civic Education, which is based in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. (PR)

2009 Tinian San Jose FIESTA

April 29 - May 3

The Honorable Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas & the people of Tinian are happy to invite the people of Guam, Saipan, Rota and the Northern Islands to our beautiful island of Tinian to celebrate this year's

Tinian San Jose Fiesta!

- Sports competitions
- Carnival activities
- Cockfight Derby
- San Jose Fiesta Coronation
- Grand Fiesta Banquet
- Music & Entertainment for the family!

And don't forget the San Jose Church-Tinian Fiesta Bonanza Annual Raffle with BIG cash prizes & more!

Proudly sponsored by

For further information contact the Tinian Mayors Office (670) 433-1800

Transpac group donates over \$7K

Staff volunteer support to ARC walkathon



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Transpac group volunteers tend to the Subway and Foremost food and beverage stations as American Red Cross walkathon participants start to line up to avail of their Subway sandwiches and Foremost Crystal Clear bottled water and Foremost Orange Juice during the fundraiser held March 28 at Kilili Beach in Susupe.

The Transpacific International Inc. group has reinforced its commitment to the American Red Cross Walkathon through a large volunteer delegation and over \$7,000 in cash and product donation to the annual fundraiser.

A total of 52 employees of the Transpac group of companies participated in this year's annual American Red Cross fundraiser compared to last year's 43.

Volunteers tended their respective booths including an aid station where water and fresh fruit were passed to walkathon participants.

Transpacific International Inc. and its affiliated companies were the premier sponsors of the event and set up booths as early as 5 a.m. Hundreds of people were seen queuing for their free Subway® sandwiches and Foremost Crystal Clear bottled water and Foremost Orange Juice.

Subway Restaurants, and

Foremost Foods Saipan set up food and beverage stations at Kilili Beach Park where the 6-mile (or 9.66-kilometer) walk to and from the Garapan Fishing Base began. Twenty Subway giant subs along with over 2,400 single-serve units of Foremost beverages were served to the participants.

Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc. donated 10 cases of Glacéau Vitamin Water intended for walkers who donated an extra \$3 to the American Red Cross on top of the \$15 pledge upon registration. These walkers each received one free bottle of Glacéau Vitamin Water and a trolley ride back to the starting line. All proceeds at the Glacéau Vitamin Water booth went directly to the American Red Cross.

Glimpses of Saipan set up a photo booth where walkers could have their photos taken with the lovely cover models of

Beach Road Magazine.

The Transpac group likewise donated six-foot Subway® sandwiches, five dozen cookies, and 100 single-scoop coupons for Foremost Scoops as incentives to schools that generate the biggest support to the walkathon.

"We have been a large supporter of the ARC Walkathon and its mission for years and this year was no different. We are committed to giving back to the communities where we do business," said Johnnie Fong, Group president of Transpacific and its affiliates.

John Hirsh, executive director, American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter, acknowledges the "fantastic" support extended by the Transpac Group. He said, "Premier sponsors like TII set the tone of the event and ARC couldn't have pulled off the successful walkathon without the sponsors."

He also said that companies

under the Transpac Group, being "very established and well recognized brands," drew people to the ARC event.

At an appreciation dinner hosted by Transpacific International Inc. on the eve of the walkathon to recognize its volunteers, Hirsh conveyed his gratitude to the Transpac group and its employees saying their continued support to the ARC walkathon contributed in a big way to the successful community event.

Toward the end of the appreciation dinner, Fong reiterated the commitment of the Transpac Group to sustain its support of the annual American Red Cross Walkathon fundraiser.

"Our group of companies believes in the humanitarian cause of the American Red Cross and we look forward to supporting the annual walkathon for many more years to come," Fong said. (PR)

Two Japanese mags share XTERRA experience

Triathlons, travel, and the tropics came together last weekend for two Japanese magazines covering the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship in the Northern Mariana Island. Tarzan magazine and Triathlon Trip magazine both sent crews in mid-April to cover the annual sporting event for their readers.

Four Tarzan readers got even closer to the action, as they had been selected by the magazine to train and compete in the event along with Taro Shirato, the official athlete of XTERRA Japan. Tarzan magazine targets male and female office workers in their 30s who are interested in health and style. Published bi-weekly by Magazine House, Tarzan reached over 100,000 readers. Tarzan will feature five-pages of XTERRA coverage in the May 2009 issue at an estimated ad

value of US\$84,269.

Triathlon Trip is a new quarterly magazine targeting men and women in their 20s to 50s. Published by Gentle Breeze be-

ginning April 2009, the magazine reaches 30,000 readers with useful information about triathlons and the destinations where they are held. XTERRA



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Photographers for Japanese magazines *Tarzan* and *Triathlon Trip* along the bike course of the XTERRA Saipan Championship on April 18, 2009.

SAipan will be featured on four pages of their September issue, with an approximate ad value of US\$26,000.

"XTERRA and our other annual sporting events are among our most cost effective ways of promoting Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," said Marianas Visitors Authority Managing Director Perry Tenorio. "Through coverage of these events, we can share information and images with a broad audience at a low cost."

In addition to covering the XTERRA event, both media outlets also did photo shoots at the Saipan Beach Pathway and Garapan Street Market. The Tarzan crew visited Managaha, while photogs from Triathlon Trip shot on location at Joeten Susupe Shopping Center and with Marianas Trekking. (MVA)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 28, 1999

Legislators to cut retirement perks

In yet another casualty of the continuous financial difficulties besetting the Commonwealth, the Legislature is expected to pass measures that would eliminate some retirement benefits for future civil service employees in a bid to reduce the government's monthly contributions to the Retirement Fund. Lawmakers stressed, however, the removal of the benefits will only affect new employees who will join the government work force after the proposal becomes law. The move comes on the heels of government's failure since last year to remit its share of the retirement contributions for its nearly 5,000 employees due to the serious cash-flow problems facing the Tenorio administration.

Govt settles portion of unpaid dues to Fund

In a move to ease worries of retirees over potential delay in their monthly pension, the government yesterday settled portion of its back contributions to the Northern Marianas Island Retirement Fund and promised to settle the rest under a payment plan. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, along with his finance managers, met with Retirement Fund officials and key members of the Legislature to draw up a plan that would reduce the government's obligation amounting to \$21 million. In the meeting, NMIRF received a check worth over \$200,000 representing partial payment for the CNMI government's unpaid contribution, which the administration has failed to settle due to financial woes.

April 28, 2000

CPA seeks OIA support in protest vs Continental

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is bringing its protest against Continental Micronesia's treatment of Guam and Saipan as co-terminals at a higher gear as it seeks backing by the Office of the Insular Affairs. In a letter to Insular Affairs Director Danny Aranza, CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said the Northern Marianas suffered tremendous economic losses due to Continental Micronesia's decision to abandon direct flights between Saipan and two Japanese cities. At the same time, Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas underscored the agency's opposition on the application of the carrier to renew its authority to operate on Route 171, Segment 9, or between Saipan/Guam and Sapporo/Sendai, Japan.

Cost of education per student drops

The Public School System currently spends less than \$4,000 to send one child to school, Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos recently disclosed, noting a decline in the education cost per student in the last three years. According to Dr. Inos, this has been due to certain adjustments PSS has had to contend with based on availability of funds. In School Year 1996-97, PSS spent some \$4,629 for each student with over 9,954 students to subsidize. The following school year, PSS student enrollment recorded some 9,246 where average cost per child lowered to \$4,500.

April 28, 2003

Power bill aid for Saipan residents

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela yesterday announced the availability of funds under the Mayor's Utility Assistance Program to help qualified residents pay for one month of their overdue power bill. This is a federally funded program available to Saipan residents who are unable to bring their power account current with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. Applications can be picked up at the Saipan Mayor's Office at Afetas Square in San Antonio beginning Thursday, May 1, 2003. For more information, call 234-6208 or 234-6280 and ask for John Cruz.

Feds agree to earlier release of grants to NMC

The U.S. Department of Education has agreed to release the financial aid money allotted for the Northern Marianas College a little earlier than was scheduled amid sanctions stemming from the college's failure to submit timely audit reports. NMC financial and administrative services director David Atalig said he recently met with federal authorities to plead for the lifting of the sanction imposed on the college this year, but they objected to it. Instead, Atalig said, the federal agency agreed to release refund money for NMC students a little earlier. The NMC received the Pell Grant financial aid only now, or several weeks away from the spring enrolment last January. Some 530 NMC students are expected to claim the money beginning today.

Island Snapshots



CULTURAL FEST

Two members of the Kula Natibu Dance Squad of Guam perform a traditional island dance at the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in the Susupe Civic Center during the weekend, drawing thousands of local residents and tourists.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



WAITING THEIR TURN

Glushko's Dance Academy students wait for their turn to perform at the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in the Susupe Civic Center during the weekend. The CNMI's biggest cultural event's theme this year is "Uniting Rainbows of Traditions and Cultures."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Team Bulacheru pose with their medals and trophy after winning the Northern Marianas College's Intramural Men's Basketball Championship game against Team 670 with a score of 38-30. The players from left, clockwise, are team captain Leroy Rangamar, Tyrone Omar, Pedro Iguel, David John Apatang, Elias Rangamar, Dean Borja, Dhan Mateo (also, winner of the free throw contest), John Micheal Leroy and Team Todu Klasi member Christopher Santos holding trophy.



VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Team CNMI, winner of the Northern Marianas College's Intramural Women's Volleyball Championship, pose with their medals and trophy after their game against Team YSEI. Coach Rufino Aguon, standing at the rear second to the left, handed the three-time winners their prizes after they scored 15-10 in the last game. The players from left, clockwise, are Raylin Sakisat, Samylyn Atalig, Jackie Dela Cruz, Nina Manglona, Rasree-ann Leon Guerrero, Cherylin Obechang and team captain Juana Atalig.



RED CROSS TRAINING

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI Chapter recently sent Mary Ann Taman and Kennedy Benjamin, to Yokota Air Force base in Japan, together with executive director John Hirsh, for advanced Red Cross military casework training. Taman, Benjamin, and Hirsh participated in a two-day workshop designed to improve casework that supports military service members and their families. The class included senior casework instructors from Ft. Bragg as well as 18 Red Cross caseworkers from around Japan. This trip was funded through community support here in the CNMI, as well as a generous donation by Northwest Airlines.



JROTC DRILL

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marianas High School cadets show what they've got during the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Annual Drill Competition in Puerto Rico on Saturday. MHS emerged as the overall winner, followed by second placer Saipan Southern High School, and third placer Rota High School.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rota High School cadets wait stand at attention as they wait for the results of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Annual Drill Competition in Puerto Rico on Saturday. RHS ranked third among the overall winners.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, second from left, and Board of Education member Tanya King of Rota, left, along with CNMI Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program officials prepare to announce the winners in the JROTC Annual Drill Competition in Puerto Rico on Saturday.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Saipan Southern High School cadets stand at attention as they wait for the announcement of winners during the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Annual Drill Competition in Puerto Rico on Saturday. SSHS ranked second in the overall winners in the competition.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Saipan Southern High School cadets cheer as they were proclaimed second placer in the overall winners in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Annual Drill Competition in Puerto Rico on Saturday.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 101Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Opening up government

During its eight years, the Bush administration treated the Freedom of Information Act at best as a joke, at worst as an enemy. Attorney General John Ashcroft determined that the Justice Department would defend agency determinations to withhold information unless those decisions were found to “lack a sound legal basis or present an unwarranted risk of adverse impact on the ability of other agencies to protect other important records.” Translation: Agencies were empowered and even encouraged to resist compliance with FOIA, which was meant to provide citizens a reasonable means to obtain information about the workings of their government.

Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. rescinded the Ashcroft memorandum last week and in its place installed guidelines that should promote a more faithful application of the freedom of information law.

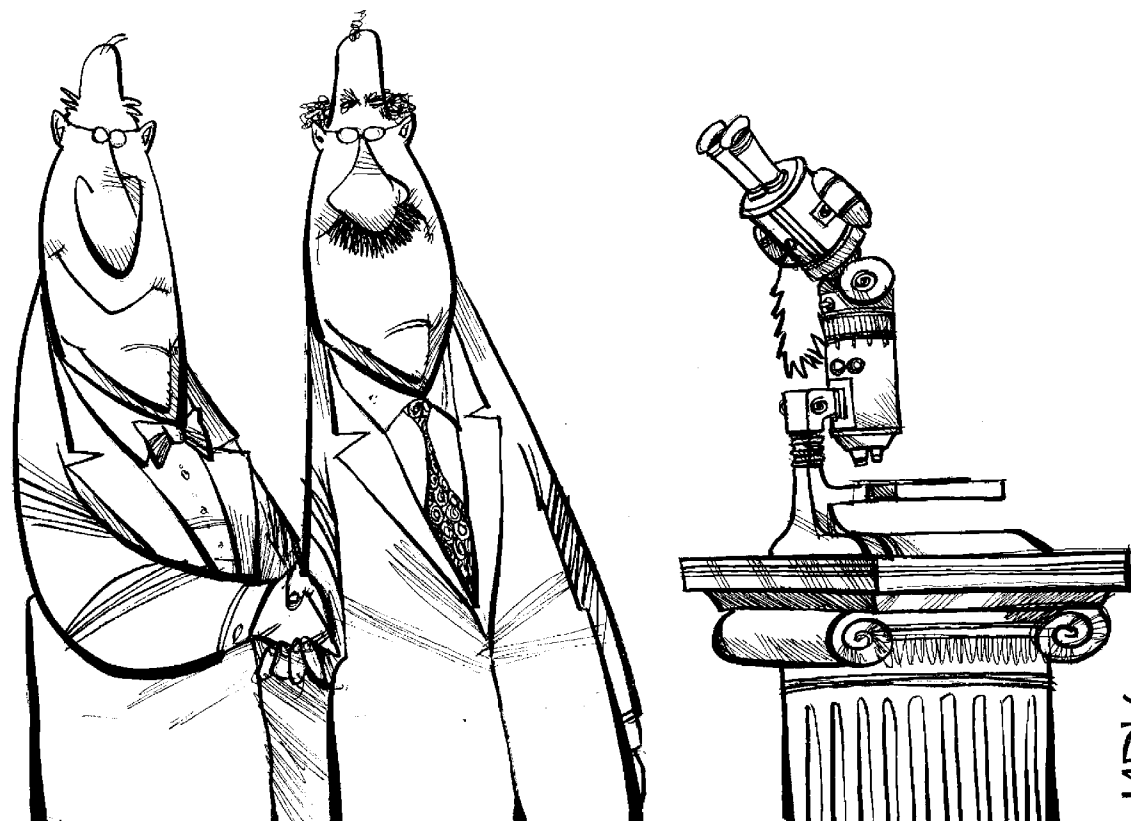
Holder's rules require that executive branch agencies assume information may be released unless “the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm” national security, personal privacy, privileged records or law enforcement interests. Information also must be withheld if dissemination is explicitly prohibited by law, such as in the case of classified documents.

Holder also exhorted agencies to consider providing partial disclosures when full disclosure is not possible. And he encourages them to “readily and systematically post information online in advance of any public request.” Doing so, he says, will reduce “the need for individualized requests and may help reduce existing backlogs.”

Every administration—and this one is no exception—must guard against release of documents or information that could undermine the nation's security. But Holder should be commended for restoring a sense of balance and integrity to one of the most important tools available for holding government accountable.

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GREAT MOMENTS IN SCIENCE--ROBERTO FUNGO OF CAL TECH AND GRUMUNDI ZAROOSH OF M.I.T. DEVELOP A MICROSCOPE STRONG ENOUGH TO READ THE FINE PRINT ON CREDIT CARD OFFERS.



Discipline in CNMI public schools

By CRAIG H. GARRISON
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

School leaders today are often faced with daily decisions regarding the discipline of students. Violations of local school board policies, school rules, and local or state laws often occur at nearly every public school across America and in the CNMI. Whether it is at the elementary or secondary level, and often in the absence of parental guidance, public schools face the daunting challenge of modeling, modifying, and mastering student behavior and performance. The National Center for Education Statistics (<http://nces.ed.gov>) reports that U.S. public schools suspends over three million students per year. That's a staggering number even on a national scale.

There is a virtual plethora of data regarding discipline in schools and how it relates to performance available online, describing how it affects areas such as student achievement, accountability, behavior, school safety, etc. Effective school leaders often use this data to help develop their school policies. What most school leaders would agree on is that whilst there is a need for discipline policy, many schools are left without the resources needed to effectively manage and create programs in schools that help reduce suspensions, such as those that involve crisis counseling, resources rooms, medical and psychological referrals systems, and even simple health centers and nursing on campus. Thus schools are left to use the tools they are given, which is often simply state board or school level policies.

Although many policies provide for alternatives to out-of-school suspensions, the fact is most schools lack the resources for such programs. School cleanups, in-house suspensions, special projects etc. all require additional supervision and that equals time, personnel and ultimately money, which schools do not have. However, some schools in America have been able to effectively create school discipline policies and practices that are reducing out of school suspensions. These schools are often the same schools that have several common traits, i.e., high rates of parental involvement, increased counseling services, a high score on the school climate index, and external financial resources for funding of alternative programs. Unfortunately most of these schools are found in affluent neighborhoods and thus schools in rural areas continue to face the challenge.

In the CNMI, and consistent with many rural school districts, there is limited funding for additional personnel and programs. After-school program funds are spent on academic program reinforcement aimed at meeting the systemwide goals for performance. This is often due to that fact that federal funding usually has specific guidelines as to what it can and can't be spent on leaving the schools to offer only programs they can versus what they need.

The recent data on suspensions that was revealed regarding the

CNMI provides evidence that increased funding efforts may be warranted in helping to reduce suspensions. However, the CNMI data showed unrealistically high number of suspensions, especially for one high school, i.e., 1,784 suspensions during a single school year. A simple mathematics rule applied would have revealed that the data either was seriously flawed or there was a serious problem. With a total number of 180 school days, that would mean the school suspended on average 10 students every single day of the school year. That is clearly a serious error in data reporting. For a school to suspend that many students each day, the paperwork alone would require additional staff, not to mention the line at the door for the required parental conferences. Unfortunately, the person reporting the data failed to properly investigate and verify the data with the source at the school level even after being given the opportunity to do so.

It is this type of erroneous and reckless reporting that can often skew the image of public schools and thus inhibit the system from gaining support in the public sector. The numbers reported were taken from actual totals of infractions and not actual suspensions. The example is that a single student could have as many as five infractions in a single event, i.e. use of foul language, disrespect to school staff, destruction of school property, cutting class, and smoking. This is an event where a student is not in class and subsequently found smoking in the bathroom, gets mad, uses foul language at the staff, hits the paper towel rack and leaves the building. Now whilst the student will be suspended, the charges will be listed on a computer to include all offenses that fall under suspension. In the case of the data reported on the one high school, the data was never asked to be disaggregated by the author to find out the true numbers, which would show considerably less number of actual suspensions.

Responsible reporting of educational data is imperative if it is to be believable. If public reporting of data is erroneous it may take years to correct or dispel as the Internet will continue to make the information available and may also impede the schools or system's ability to appear compliant with federal policies and regulations regarding continued funding.

The CNMI public school system has been highly effective in reducing discipline in schools over the years since the days where betel nut spit lined the walls of every building at the only public high school the CNMI to today's state of the art campuses and facilities that are now available to CNMI students and their families.

Current data that would show an increase in suspensions is aligned with the increase in accountability. A decade ago students were not getting suspended for most of the offenses that were punishable under the law and as a result there were significant disruptions, damage to school property, and school violence that went

See DISCIPLINE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

MHS students speak out on suspensions

Rapport with students

On 23 April 2009, the *Saipan Tribune* ran an article on the increasing number of suspensions for junior high and high school. It further states that Marianas High School had the highest suspensions in the school year of 2006-2007. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, a board member of PSS, believes “that non-compliance with the regulation could be the result of a lack of adequate counseling, or the lack of training and discipline behavior modification by counselors.”

Galvin Deleon Guerrero seems to be stating that the higher the suspension rate there is in a public school, the lower the standards of discipline that the public school has. I believe that this is an inaccurate assumption because the 955 cases of suspensions show that my school does something about the students that fool around the campus. In addition, MHS staff make sure that they get their jobs done. For instance, if a student is not in any of his or her classes, the vice principal would call his or her parents to inform them that their child was not present from any of their classes.

I know this for a fact because I was absent from my classes on April 8, 2009. The vice principal called my dad to let him know that I was not in my class, and my dad kindly replied that I was feeling ill. Moreover, if a student loses his or her lunch pass, the vice principal calls their parent to get consent. This “informing the parents” illustrates the rapport that Marianas High School has with its students. In addition, MHS counselors inform the students that if they have too many suspensions, it would jeopardize them graduating or getting promoted.

Mae Angelie Ito
Koblerville, Saipan

Soft on students

This is in response to the “rampant suspension” article in last Thursday’s edition of the *Saipan Tribune*. According to the article, suspensions in public schools are on the rise and school administrators are the ones to blame because they are not exhausting other disciplinary methods such as picking up trash and parental conferences or using counselors to their full capacity. Mr. De Leon Guerrero has called this “abuse” of the power to suspend students. I do not believe this is an abuse of power. This is a way of taking things into our hands. I’m not sure about the other high schools, but MHS has a strict zero-tolerance policy for tobacco, betel nut, and other drugs.

If I didn’t know any better I’d say Mr. De Leon Guerrero was going soft on us. Students won’t learn their lesson by picking up trash and talking. We are like lab rats in the way that they respond to pain and learn how to avoid it. We learn by making mistakes. If you picked up trash, that’s it, big deal, but if you get suspended you will most likely hear a lot from the parents. Kids tend to avoid verbal confrontation with their parents and will most likely not break the rules again. I am not proud of the fact that we are at the top of the “suspenders” but that’s how it is. Our student population is high and things just happen. It’s not the school’s fault. I am a junior here and personally I think the school does a pretty good job controlling the students.

To Mr. DLG I dare you to run a school as big as MHS with your “exhausting standard day-to-day corrective disciplinary measures”

SENATOR

From Page 10

unabated. As the system developed a more skilled workforce and administrators became well versed in public school policy, it was just a matter of time before “enforcement” of the rules already in place occurred, and this is why there “appears” to be an increase in activity. It’s not so much as things have changed as it is the students are being held more accountable for behavior.

Public schools in the CNMI continue to develop programs that work and build on school climate in order to help reduce the need for out-of-school suspensions and the data shows that this is working. The most recent data on student performance shows nearly every public school increasing student achievement annually with many exceeding statewide expectations. Public school is a public concern. Parents must be partners in the education of their child and their child’s school.

Craig H. Garrison is vice principal of Saipan Southern High School.

attitude. That’s like saying 2+2=5. It just doesn’t work like that

Marvin Lobrio
MHS

Jumping to conclusions

To our concerned parents and others of the CNMI, according to the School Reform Committee report, there has been an increase in suspension of students, especially in junior high schools and secondary schools. A student’s act of violating school rules is the reason he or she is suspended. Students are suspended for various reasons because schools are strictly enforcing their policies to benefit a better educational environment and students can learn from their mistakes. “With the 2008-2009 school year not due until August, the number of suspensions have already reached the 3,000 mark, according to the School Reform Committee report,” (*Saipan Tribune*). Schools with greater suspensions may show an improvement of how our school administrators enforce their school rules. The schools are actually striving for less suspensions and better student performance in school. There could be various reasons why suspensions have increased in the past couple of years. For example, there are more students with lack of discipline, parents are not being more responsible for their child’s behavior in different environments, or schools have different policies on how and why students should be suspended.

However, some do not agree with the increase in student suspensions. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, chair of the board’s School Reform Committee, says, “just by reviewing the data, abuses by principals and administrators were quite evident” (*Saipan Tribune*). It is evident that students who violate school rules should be suspended, although Galvin Deleon Guerrero says this is an abuse to the standards. It is blatant that Mr. Deleon Guerrero is jumping to conclusions based on his analysis. We cannot blame our school administrators for suspending students. It is reasonable that our schools are trying to promote a better learning environment, although with the help of parents it would definitely be easier to reduce the suspension rate of students in our public schools.

Joel B. Tudela
Dandan, Saipan

Wrong statistics

An article titled “*Rampant student suspensions at PSS*” was published on April 23, 2009 in the *Saipan Tribune*. In this article, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, the chair of the board’s School Reform Committee, was quoted saying that, just by reviewing the rate of suspensions, “‘abuses’ by principals and administrators were quite evident” and that “while overall student enrollment in all junior and high schools has remained constant, the number of suspensions has tripled in the past couple of years.” How can “abuses” by principals and administrators be evident, you ask? Here’s what Galvin Guerrero says: “Based on the data compiled and input gathered from a broad spectrum of PSS stakeholders. it is the belief that BOE regulation 2606 is not being followed as many students are being suspended without principals or their designees fully exhausting

A lesson in statistics

It is clear that Galvin Guerrero needs a lesson in statistics. In a recent article in the *Saipan Tribune*, Mr. Guerrero violated the basic statistic rule of “association is not equal to causation” by saying that “just by reviewing the data, ‘abuses’ by principals and administrators were quite evident.” The rule of association not being equal to causation means that upon looking at a set of data, you cannot simply jump to a conclusion saying that “this set of data is obviously caused by so and so.” I looked at the suspension data, and the first thing that came into my mind is that, 1) minors are more unruly today than in recent years and 2) that

Re: Falling on deaf ears

Well, if this isn’t the failure case of the century on why someone is unfit for public office, I don’t know what is. Get out of your car and remove the grill. The CNMI is not in the position to be your nanny. Sure it would have been a fine public service to not leave the grill there, but someone picked it up off the ground and leaned it against the building. You, obviously, weren’t the concerned citizen, so why whine about it now?

standard day-to-day corrective disciplinary measures.” What proof does Galvin Guerrero have that there is any “abuse” taking place in the schools? Guerrero did not take into account that the data he is basing his facts on may have flaws. The statistics could be wrong.

The blame should not be placed upon the school administrators for disciplining students with repetitive bad behaviors. If anything, the administrators are doing a great job on disciplining the trouble makers who run around the schools.

Klynne Serrano
MHS Student

Not a bad thing

Mr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero has mentioned a lot of cruel things about the PSS administrators not following rules, and how suspension rates are abnormally rising for the past few years. And I quote, “Just by reviewing the data, “abuses” by principals and administrators were quite evident.”

I strongly believe that the PSS administrators and staff should not be blamed for such behavior. I believe that they should be congratulated for actually caring about the safety and cleanliness of the school and its students, as they punish those who violate school rules. It is not the staff’s fault if the students are incompetent, because it is their duty to keep students in line and to keep them from harm. PSS seems to have done quite the job after suspending over a hundred teenage troublemakers. This doesn’t seem like a bad thing, if students were not punished now and if they do not learn from their mistakes, even how small the mistake is, students would not be able to learn right from wrong.

But before I end this, I have a question for you, Mr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, wouldn’t you feel much safer in a place where the top dogs punished the criminals rather than in a place where the criminals roam around and spreading their chaos?

Maritoni Delos Reyes
MHS student

Doing their job

Galvin Guerrero has said that the Public School System has been abusing their authority of school suspension use. Marianas High School was one of the schools mentioned in an article in the *Saipan Tribune* on April 23, 2009. The Public School System should not be accused of abusing their authority. In fact, they should be praised at the fact they’re actually doing something about it. There are so many rules to be followed in the Public School System and, of course there are students who won’t want to follow those rules. Just the fact that the staff of our high schools are doing their job suspending students is a good thing.

Students are given a fair chance with a warning, and if they continue to do what is improper, they then are suspended. The staff is not abusing their use; they are just doing what they are supposed to be doing. They are doing their jobs.

Kay-Kay Constante

the PSS staff is doing a wonderful job in taking a no-tolerance attitude toward trouble makers. But wait, I don’t have any evidence to support this conclusion, so I won’t be going around telling newspapers that the number of suspensions is obviously caused by what I think is the cause. You see, there’s this thing called “proof,” and you need this thing called “proof” to “prove” to other people that what you’re saying is correct.

Jessie Savellano Jr.
Dandan, Saipan






Find the person who picked it up and moved it away from the picnic area where it might be stepped on and lend your voice to their campaign, as you most certainly don’t have what is needed these days.

Mark Scease
San Diego, CA

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

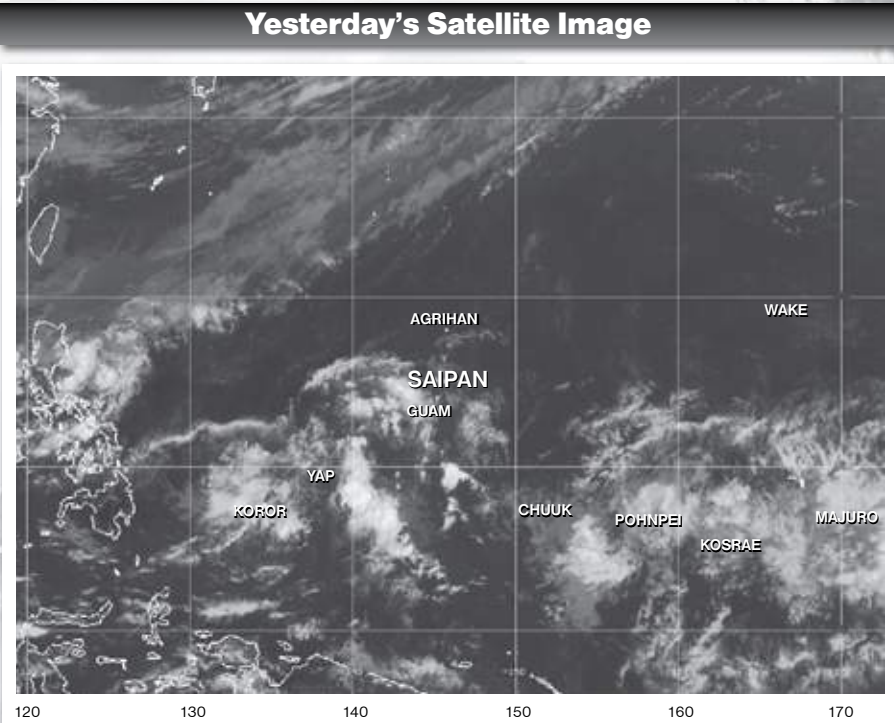
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Showers	▲83 ▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87 ▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲83 ▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲82 ▼77

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Rain	▲71 ▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲73 ▼46
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲75 ▼68
Honolulu	Showers	▲81 ▼68
London	Rain	▲61 ▼49
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲64 ▼52
Manila	Rain	▲84 ▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲54 ▼43
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲83 ▼73
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼58
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲61 ▼45
Paris	Thundershowers	▲58 ▼43
Pusan	Sunny	▲67 ▼49
Rome	Showers	▲63 ▼46
Salem	Showers	▲54 ▼40
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲62 ▼49
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲68 ▼41
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲64 ▼47
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲68 ▼52

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
3:53 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
8:41 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:11 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:25 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N144E to beyond 130E at 18N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 400 miles northwest of the front. A monsoon trough extends eastward from 7N130E through a circulation centered near Palau at 7N134E then southeastward to end at EQ143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Koror and Yap are in an area from 11N133E to 11N138E to 6N137E to 6N131E back to 11N133E and southeast of Yap within 75 miles of a line from 10N140E to 3N144E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers near Guam within 75 miles of a line from 14N143E to 13N145E and within 50 miles of a line from 13N147E to 11N148E. Trade-wind convergence is causing extensive cloud-cover. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro in areas between 2N and 10N from 151E to 175E and between 7N and 11N east of 175E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:55 AM	6:34 PM	Today	8:17 AM	9:52 PM
Wednesday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM	Wednesday	9:21 AM	10:53 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM	Thursday	10:25 AM	11:49 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM	Friday	11:28 AM	
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM	Saturday	12:28 PM	12:39 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily
Guam-Narita NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily	Narita-Guam NW 74 9:45am 2:20pm Daily NW 82 10:30am 3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Osaka OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1,4,6	Osaka-Saipan OZ 120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7
Guam-Osaka NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily	Osaka-Guam NW 80 10:30am 3:00pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily
Guam-Nagoya NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	Nagoya-Guam NW 24 10:00am 2:30pm Daily
Saipan-Incheon OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 119 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily	Incheon-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:00pm 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6	Shanghai-Saipan FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7	Guam-Rota CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6
Guam-Palau CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7 CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5	Palau-Guam CO 954 2:30am 5:25am 1,2 CO 892 2:35am 5:30am 4,6
Palau-Manila CO 893 7:35pm 9:10pm 3,5	Manila-Palau CO 892 10:10pm 1:50am+1 3,5
Guam-Manila CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:05am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Nagoya-Manila NW 71 8:40pm 11:55pm Daily	Manila-Nagoya NW 72 6:30am 11:05am Daily
Incheon-Hongkong OZ 721 9:20am 12:00pm Daily OZ 723 7:45pm 10:35pm Daily OZ 7173 8:00pm 10:50pm 5,7	Hongkong-Incheon OZ 724 12:30am 4:50am Daily OZ 7183 12:45am 5:05am 1,4,6 OZ 722 1:30pm 5:45pm Daily
Narita-Manila NW 1 7:00pm 10:55pm Daily	Manila-Narita NW 2 7:45am 12:40pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Saipan then and now

Post-war island economic history in a nutshell

Second of a four-part series

Setting the stage for an economic take-off

As mentioned in part one I suspect there are many people new to the islands, along with some college students here and abroad who have little knowledge of the area's relatively recent and turbulent economic history—not having lived it. These essays present some of the highlights in somewhat abbreviated form.

The following is a brief review of the government's financial resources, which, over the period described below would, indicate that a larger portion could have been used to improve basic infrastructure but was neglected in spite of the huge sums of money available at the time to meet such needs.

During the period 1986 to 2004 (the period that has data) the CNMI government's total internally generated revenue was \$3.07 billion. During this period the total expenditures on capital improvement projects in the Commonwealth as generated from the islands' own internal sources was a meager 3.2 percent (\$78.4 million). Over the above period, other government expenditures were wages and salaries \$1.6 billion (64 percent) and all other expenditures of \$807.5 million (32.8 percent).

The vast majority of the total expenditures made on capital improvement infrastructure projects resulted not from locally generated revenues but largely as a result of U.S. financial assistance in the form of program grants and loans and Covenant funds. The result being that CNMI's locally generated revenue permitted the NMI government to employ more people. Accord-

ing to census figures, at the time of the enumeration, government employment figures for 1990 were 3,116 and 10 years later in the year 2000, at a time when the economy was contracting, government employment totaled 4,996. The increase over the 10-year period was almost 30 percent.

Over the period 1986 - 2004 the total reported business gross revenue generated by the private sector was \$31.3 billion. Add to the above \$393.6 million in Section 702 Covenant grants from the federal government (from the 2nd and 3rd funding agreements) and it can readily be concluded that U.S. financial assistance has accounted for the bulk of the islands' infrastructure and "freed-up" huge locally generated sums permitting an increase in government employment and, of course, its payroll.

The above sums do not include the myriad of federal program grants provided the islands in the form of education, health and human services, road improvement, transportation, housing and energy assistance, food stamps, etc., all provided by the U.S. government.

Since the inception of Commonwealth status, the precise amount of federal program assistance over and above Covenant funds is unknown but my estimate is certainly more than a half-billion dollars—actually closer to one billion. Again, these were funds for programs the CNMI did not have to finance from its own internally generated sources, which in turn freed up more local revenue for the government's payroll amounting to \$1.6 billion over an 18-year period for an average of \$88.9 million per year.

The above is a brief cursory review of the island's financial as-

services, you don't submit billing statements that describe the work that you are doing in the name of the CNMI. As you said yourself in your April 27 letter to the editor, you "submit no billing statements reflecting the hours that [you] work on identified Commonwealth matters" and "[d]uring the last two months of 2008 and the first two months of 2009, [you were] working for the Commonwealth in Washington on several important matters and received no compensation of any kind." What exactly were these "important Commonwealth matters"? If you submitted billing statements that the Attorney General's Office would have the decency to disclose, we would know.

Mr. Willens, with all due respect, the good people of the CNMI deserve to know what is going on up at Capital Hill. A transparent government is an honest government. The fact that you tried to hold a closed-door meeting with our legislators a few months back to get their support for the federalization lawsuit tells us that you are a believer in secret wheeling and dealing. The truth is, you should have insisted that Governor Fitial hold a town hall meeting or a public forum for all the people of the CNMI, not just our legislators! And the fact that we, the unwilling plaintiffs in the governor's and your federalization lawsuit, are now being told that we have no business knowing how much of our money is being spent and whether or not funds are being reprogrammed to pay for this lawsuit is, at the very least, insulting.

Did it ever occur to you that our community might have been more supportive of the lawsuit if you had initiated and exhausted all efforts in negotiating with the federal government? Instead, you and Governor Fitial chose to sue first and ask questions later. This is

Change the way we choose our leaders

Change is coming to District 4 on Saipan; the people should take part in making this change! Our two representatives to the Legislature, Joe Camacho and Justo Quitugua, are not going to run for re-election to the House of Representatives. We are lucky that both of our representatives are doing a good job for us. I do not always agree with their votes but they have passion for their jobs. Joe brings a wealth of legal knowledge to the Legislature and he works hard, does not take "benefits" and helps run the House. The bills Joe has introduced are practical. Justo does many "good" things for the people in the district; he wrote the recent bill to limit smoking areas in the CNMI. He cares about the health of the people. We will miss these two guys in the House on Capital Hill, but both could still be on the Hill if they win their elections. The question for the folks in District 4, how and whom do we replace them with?

I have attended many of the House meetings during the last year to learn how things get done in the CNMI. Unfortunately, when I attended these meetings I am usually the only person in the audience except for several media reporters. The meetings can be exciting and often "high drama", passions are high and the politics are both "on" and "under" the table. The CNMI folks that do not attend these meetings are missing one of the most interesting events on island.

I observed the quality of the legislators range from outstanding to failing grades, just like Representative Joe's recent midterm survey showed. Some seem to sleep during the meetings, are not prepared, only follow the leadership, and are not thinking for themselves nor adding to the processes of government. On the other hand there are those who sit on the edge of their chairs that are emotionally involved, very intelligent, are on top of all the issues, correcting mistakes, and always looking for ways to improve the legislative

By WILLIAM H. STEWART

Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.



sociation with the United States. Prior to that political affiliation and following the devastation of Saipan and Tinian as a result of the war, the Northern Marianas remained remote and largely isolated for many years during which there was no economy.

To be continued.

Editor's Note: Portions of the above text may have been previously cited elsewhere by the author. Bill Stewart is a former senior economist for the NMI and has privately authored several books, including Saipan in Flames, a World War II account; the Business Reference and Investment Guide to the CNMI and several hundred thousand tourist and historical maps of Saipan, Tinian and Rota distributed free by MVA and island businesses. His other investment promotional materials published by the government include Introducing the Northern Mariana Islands: An American Doorstep to Asia and Tourism Investment Opportunities in the NMI.

Letters to the Editor

'A transparent govt is an honest govt'

Dear Mr. Howard Willens: I read your letter to the editor regarding your contract with the Commonwealth. I was so deeply moved that I felt compelled to respond.

In your letter, you stated, "*I do not receive any compensation or salary for my professional services to the Commonwealth as special legal counsel to the governor.*" Mr. Willens, your contract with the CNMI government is as special legal counsel for the Governor. You do receive a check each quarter for up to \$12,000, which is \$48,000 a year. No matter how you try to spin it, you are receiving compensation!

When attorneys decide to work *pro bono* or "for the public good," they donate their professional services at no charge, and it is normally extended to clients who cannot afford them. If you are such a kind and caring volunteer with a "long-standing commitment to the Commonwealth" as you claim, then why are you accepting any compensation at all? Come to think of it, why didn't you, a Yale graduate, represent the CNMI in our federalization lawsuit against the federal government? Why must we pay Jenner & Block at least \$50,000 a month to represent us when we have two "volunteer" attorneys in you and your wife, Deanne Siemer? If you and Deanne represented us poor folk islanders, and you end up winning our case against the evil U.S. federal government, then you and Deanne will be hailed as hometown heroes and we will have a parade in honor of you! We, the people of the CNMI, will write songs about you and tell our grandchildren all about your good deeds (Hopefully, our grandchildren will be making at least \$5 an hour in minimum wage by then).

Mr. Willens, I have five questions for you, and I hope you will volunteer some time from your busy schedule to answer them:

■ Do you still honestly consider yourself a volunteer? If you do, then should we start compensating the hundreds of CNMI volunteers who clean our beaches and coach our kids? Should non-profit agencies like Marianas March Against Cancer start compensating their volunteers as well?

■ When you and Governor Fitial claimed you were working for free as a volunteer at no cost to the CNMI government, don't you think you should have at least clarified to the CNMI taxpayers who pay for your reimbursements, that you are in fact being compensated?

■ Does Deanne get compensated for her time as well? Can you be upfront and honest about this please? We'd like to know, since it is coming from our pockets. Will we have to launch another lawsuit to find out if Deanne is getting any compensation, or will you come clean and just tell us?

■ If you are in fact getting paid \$12,000 a quarter, for up to 60 days of work per quarter while you are in the CNMI, then aren't you really getting paid for part-time services? And if we annualize your compensation for full-time work for 365 days of the year, wouldn't you *really* be making over \$70,000 a year, which is more than what any of the full-time Assistant AGs make?

■ With regard to your contract, what exactly *are* you getting paid for anyway? Your independent contractor agreement doesn't specify any deliverables. And because you "volunteer" your legal

deeply regrettable, because it is a waste of valuable resources, as the \$50,000 we are throwing away every month on this lawsuit could have been better spent. Things are so bad right now that the government is considering taking \$400,000 from the Tobacco Control Fund, which is used to support many important public health initiatives, to keep the Division of Immigration afloat for six months! I bet the government has spent at least that much since the federalization lawsuit was filed more than eight months ago. (But we don't know exactly how much the government has spent on this lawsuit, because you, the Governor, the Secretary of Finance, and the Attorney General's Office refuse to tell us.)

Just like there are better things we could be spending public dollars on rather than the federalization lawsuit, surely there are better things that you could be doing with your "volunteer" time. For instance, the Office of the Public Auditor has reported millions of dollars misused and abused by public officials that could be recovered. How much has the Attorney General's Office recovered thus far? Perhaps your volunteer time would be better spent in helping the understaffed Office of the Attorney General rather than the over-staffed Office of the Governor.

In closing, I want you to know that I am deeply disappointed in your insistence that you are still a volunteer because you don't charge for your legal services. Mr. Willens, spin it as you may, I recall what my father told me as a young lad: "If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it probably is a duck."

Ed Propst

Dandan, Saipan

processes. The ratio of these two types of representatives discussed above probably follows the old 80/20 management rule; 80 percent of the people follow, and only 20 percent lead. Our new representatives in District 4 should be leaders! How do we go about finding leaders for our district?

We need a new process to select our elected leaders. The old methods for selecting leadership will yield the same results and the 80/20 rule will continue unchanged, and we the people will be losers. We need a new process that will create change to give us "Communities of Excellence." In such a community all the people work together for the benefit of the whole, not just individuals, not families, not even political parties! The business community, churches, schools and college, government, clubs and associations come together to work for the betterment of the whole community. This is what we need to happen to reverse the 80/20 rule and make our selection winners.

There are many people in the CNMI including District 4, who would like to make a change happen. They have been meeting for a long time and new processes are slowly being identified. You can make a contact to this informal group, whose only agenda is to reform our government; see the Commonwealth Dialogues at www.tinasablan.com/forum. District 4 folks, please get involved in your government! Who do you think would be good candidates for our two positions in the House of Representatives? You may never totally agree with the candidates' policies, but you should support their personal principles. Send in your suggestions now!

Frank Stewart

Capital Hill, Saipan

Business

Chrysler reaches labor deals in fight for survival

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil falls to near \$50 as OPEC says prices too low

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell toward \$50 a barrel Monday in Asia as investors mulled comments from OPEC suggesting the price was too low for companies to justify new investments in crude production. Benchmark crude for June delivery was down \$1.12 to \$50.43 a barrel by midmorning in Singapore, in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract Friday jumped \$1.93 to settle at \$51.55. Oil has traded near \$50 a barrel this month, about a third of its record high in July, as the global economy remains weak and traders grapple with an uncertain outlook for recovery.

Bank of America rebrands mortgage operations

NEW YORK (AP)—Bank of America Corp. has officially dropped the Countrywide Home Loans name as part of its integration of the mortgage lender, which was acquired last year. Charlotte, N.C.-based Bank of America on Monday renamed its mortgage and home equity lending operations Bank of America Home Loans. The division incorporates Bank of America's previous lending businesses with those of Countrywide. The rebranding is being completed Monday to coincide with the beginning of what is traditionally the busiest season for home buying and follows other back-office integration between the lending units, said Barbara Desoer, president of Bank of America Home Loans.

Japan's Kirin buys Australian brewer Lion Nathan

SYDNEY (AP)—Lion Nathan Ltd., the Australian brewer of Tooheys and Hahn beers, said Monday its biggest shareholder, Japan's Kirin Holdings Co., has agreed to buy the 54 percent of Lion it does not already own. Under the deal, Tokyo-based Kirin will buy the shares at 12.22 Australian dollars (\$8.76) each, made up of \$11.50 in cash and another 72 cents in dividends, Sydney-based Lion Nathan said in a statement. The offer values Lion Nathan at AU\$6.5 billion (\$4.7 billion) on an equity basis, and AU\$8.2 billion on an enterprise basis, Lion Nathan said.



Hundreds of Chrysler cars sit ready for final assembly and shipping at the assembly plant in Brampton, Ontario, Monday, April 20, 2009. AP

DETROIT (AP)—It looks like scrappy little Chrysler LLC might yet escape the auctioneer's gavel.

The smallest U.S.-based automaker cleared two major hurdles on Sunday in its quest for survival, reaching a concession agreement with the United Auto Workers and winning ratification of its cost-cutting deal with the Canadian Auto Workers.

That leaves only two obstacles standing between Chrysler and up to \$6 billion in additional

loans from the U.S. government: A partnership deal with Italy's Fiat Group SpA and an agreement to swap equity for debt with banks and hedge funds that hold \$6.9 billion in secured Chrysler loans.

Details of the UAW deal weren't disclosed, but the union said it was crafted together with Chrysler, Fiat Group SpA and the U.S. government. That means the cost cuts have been blessed by the Treasury Department, which has

been overseeing efforts to restructure Chrysler and its Detroit counterpart, General Motors Corp.

It also means Fiat was heavily involved in negotiations, a sign that the Italian automaker is serious about taking a 20 percent stake in Chrysler in exchange for providing the Auburn Hills, Mich., company with small-car technology.

Chrysler has been living on \$4 billion in government loans and may get another \$500 million

World Bank: Nations should speed aid to poor

WASHINGTON (AP)—The World Bank on Sunday urged donor nations to speed up delivery of the money they've already pledged—and open their wallets wider—to help poor countries reeling from recessions rooted in rich nations.

The economic nosedive is turning into a human and development "calamity," which already has driven more than 50 million people into extreme poverty this year, the World Bank's policy steering committee said in a communique issued at the close of its spring meeting.

"There is widespread recognition that the world faces an unprecedented economic crisis, poor people could suffer the most and that we must continue to act in real time to prevent a human catastrophe," World Bank chief Robert Zoellick said.

Poor countries have watched as the recession has dried up investment capital, sharply reduced exports and commodity prices and slowed the flow of cash sent home by their citizens working abroad. Finance ministers at the meeting said impoverished nations need a hand up

that doesn't burden them with debt or add to the ranks of those earning just a few dollars a day.

The World Bank has pledged to provide poor countries with more than \$55 billion for public works projects left in limbo when the recession hit. That follows a tripling in lending, to \$12 billion, to support health, education and other safety net programs in poor countries. The International Monetary Fund is doubling the borrowing limits for 78 of the poorest countries in an effort to meet the needs of developing nations harmed by the downturn.

Pork industry assures customers pork is safe

BOSTON (AP)—U.S. pork producers, responding to a swine flu outbreak that has escalated into a public health emergency, said Sunday their product is safe and that consumers cannot catch the virus by eating properly cooked food.

The industry-funded National Pork Board said it "wishes to reassure the public that pork is safe and will continue to be safe to consume." The statement comes as multiple nations increase their screening of pigs and pork imports from the Americas or are banning them outright as the virus is said to have killed up to 86

people and likely sickened up to 1,400 since April 13 in Mexico. U.S. officials say the virus has been found in New York, California, Texas, Kansas and Ohio, but so far no fatalities have been reported.

The stakes are high for U.S. pork producers, which export nearly \$5 billion worth of products each year. The organization pointed to a statement by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that swine influenza viruses "are not spread by food" and that eating properly handled pork and cooked pork products is

safe since the virus dies when cooked at temperatures of 160 degrees or higher.

The pork producers' group also noted that public health officials believe the virus is spreading from person to person, with no evidence indicating any of the illnesses resulted from close contact with pigs.

However, Russia has banned the import of meat products from Mexico, California, Texas and Kansas. South Korea has said it will increase the number of its influenza virus checks on pork products from Mexico and the U.S.

Washington grower has all-organic peaches, nectarines

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP)—One of the Pacific Northwest's largest fruit growers has had 100 percent of its peach and nectarine crops certified as organic, following a three-year transition period.

Stemilt Growers Inc. is a smaller, niche player in the soft fruit industry compared to California growers, which dominate U.S. organic soft fruit production. But Stemilt produces about 65 percent of Washington state's soft fruit, much of it now certified as organic.

Stemilt produces 26 percent of organic apples in Washington, which is the nation's leading supplier of apples, and 32 percent of the organic pears grown in the Northwest.

"The main emphasis on the fruit is pushing flavor—naturally farmed for ultimate flavor," Roger Pepperl, Stemilt director of marketing, said last week.

More growers are converting orchards to organic crops to meet consumers' increasing demand for healthier food.

To be certified organic by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, growers must raise their crop free of bug killer or fertilizer for three years. Agricultural experts estimate the costs for growers at as much as 30 percent higher during the transition, and growers rarely get a higher return for the fruit during that time.

Two years ago, Stemilt created a new marketing campaign known as "Artisan Naturals" to market its peaches and nectarines. The fruits were being grown organically, but had not yet been certified, so the almost-but-not-quite label

to keep it alive through Thursday's deadline to restructure to the government's satisfaction. If it can't close the final deals, however, no more government money will be made available and the company almost certainly would be auctioned off in pieces under bankruptcy court supervision.

For weeks, it appeared Chrysler might not be able to meet a deadline many in the industry considered impossible. But White House economic adviser Larry Summers said Sunday the Obama administration is holding out hope that Chrysler can avoid bankruptcy court.

And two people briefed on negotiations with Fiat said the companies are close to signing a deal as long as debtholders agree to take equity in the company for a portion of the \$6.9 billion they are owed. The people didn't want to be identified because talks have not been made public.

allowed Stemilt to capitalize with higher prices.

"With soft fruit, there have been struggles on the retail side, bad customer experiences made for a national retail problem," Pepperl said. "We thought we had a silver bullet there that we should put out right away."

Peaches and nectarines will now be sold under the "Artisan Organic" label.

In addition, about 40 percent of the company's apricots are organic.

Washington leads the nation in organic apple, pear and cherry acreage, primarily in the central, irrigated regions of the state.

Certified acres of organic apples and cherries increased by more than 60 percent in 2008, according to a recent study by David Granatstein, sustainable agriculture specialist with the Washington State University Extension in Wenatchee.

Organic apple and pear acreage may increase 33 percent and 26 percent by 2010, and cherry growth may increase 46 percent in the same timeframe, the report said.

Stemilt is one of the nation's largest providers of apples. Only about 12 percent to 15 percent of the company's crop will be organic this year, but Pepperl said that is expected to increase.

However, apples grown in orchards that are in transition to being certified organic are not sold under the transition label created for soft fruit.

"They really don't have a market, because there are so many organic apples out there," he said. "Consumers will just go ahead and buy those organics."

Nation

World govts race to contain swine flu outbreak

WASHINGTON (AP)—The world's governments raced to avoid both a pandemic and global hysteria Sunday as more possible swine flu cases surfaced from Canada to New Zealand and the United States declared a public health emergency. "It's not a time to panic," the White House said.

Mexico, the outbreak's epicenter with up to 86 suspected deaths, canceled some church services and closed markets and restaurants. Few people ventured onto the streets, and some wore face masks. Canada became the third country to confirm cases, in six people, including some students who—like some New York City spring-breakers—got mildly ill in Mexico. Countries across Asia promised to quarantine feverish travelers returning from flu-affected areas.

The U.S. declared the health emergency so it could ship roughly 12 million doses of flu-fighting medications from a federal stockpile to states in case they eventually need them—although, with 20 confirmed cases of people recovering easily, they don't appear to for now.

Make no mistake: There is not a global pandemic—at least not yet. It's not clear how many people truly have this particular strain, or why all countries but Mexico are seeing mild disease. Nor is it clear if the new virus spreads easily, one milestone that distinguishes a bad flu from a global crisis. But waiting to take protective steps until after a pandemic is declared would be too late.

"We do think this will continue to



San Diego County micro-biologist Anna Liza Manlutac tests for the influenza virus at the San Diego County Public Health lab in San Diego Sunday, April, 26, 2009.

spread but we are taking aggressive actions to minimize the impact on people's health," said Dr. Richard Besser, acting chief of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

President Barack Obama's adminis-

tration sought to look both calm and in command, striking a balance between informing Americans without panicking them. Obama himself was playing golf while U.S. officials used a White House news conference to compare the

emergency declaration with preparing for an approaching hurricane.

"Really, that's what we're doing right now. We're preparing in an environment where we really don't know ultimately what the size or seriousness of this outbreak is going to be," Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano told reporters.

Earlier, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said the outbreak was serious, but that the public should know "it's not a time to panic." He told NBC's "Meet the Press" that Obama was getting updates "every few hours" on the situation.

In Mexico, soldiers handed out 6 million surgical-style masks to deal with a deadly flu strain that officials say may have sickened 1,400 people since April 13. Special laboratory tests to confirm how many died from it—22 have been confirmed so far out of 86 suspected deaths—are taking time.

The World Bank said it would send Mexico \$25 million in loans for immediate aid and \$180 million in long-term assistance to address the outbreak, along with advice on how other nations have dealt with similar crises.

The World Health Organization and the U.S. were following a playbook of precautions developed over the past five years to prepare for the next super-flu. The WHO on Saturday asked all countries to step up detection of this strain of A/H1N1 swine flu and will reconsider on Tuesday whether to raise the pandemic threat level, in turn triggering additional actions.

Is swine flu 'the big one' or a flu that fizzles?

ATLANTA (AP)—As reports of a unique form of swine flu erupt around the world, the inevitable question arises: Is this the big one?

Is this the next big global flu epidemic that public health experts have long anticipated and worried about? Is this the novel virus that will kill millions around the world, as pandemics did in 1918, 1957 and 1968?

The short answer is it's too soon to tell.

"What makes this so difficult is we may be somewhere between an important but yet still uneventful public health occurrence here—with

something that could literally die out over the next couple of weeks and never show up again—or this could be the opening act of a full-fledged influenza pandemic," said Michael Osterholm, a prominent expert on global flu outbreaks with the University of Minnesota.

"We have no clue right now where we are between those two extremes. That's the problem," he said.

Health officials want to take every step to prevent an outbreak from spiraling into mass casualties. Predicting influenza is a dicey endeavor, with the

U.S. government famously guessing wrong in 1976 about a swine flu pandemic that never materialized.

"The first lesson is anyone who tries to predict influenza often goes down in flames," said Dr. Richard Wenzel, the immediate past president of the International Society for Infectious Diseases.

But health officials are being asked to make such predictions, as panic began to set in over the weekend.

The epicenter was Mexico, where the virus is blamed for 86 deaths and an estimated 1,400 cases in the country since April 13. Schools were closed, church services canceled and Mexican President Felipe Calderon assumed new powers to isolate people infected with the swine flu virus.

AG Holder is close to making a decision on Gitmo detainees

LONDON (AP)—The United States is "relatively close" to making decisions on what to do with an initial group of Guantanamo Bay detainees, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said Sunday.

Holder spoke to The Associated Press during a flight to London, the first of several stops where he will visit with European leaders to discuss terrorism, drugs, and cyber-crime.

The attorney general did not say how much longer he thought it would take to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility in Cuba. Before officials can meet President Barack Obama's January deadline, the U.S. must first decide which detainees to put on trial and which to release to the U.S. or other countries.

Holder said the first step is to decide how many total detainees will

be set free.

"We're doing these all on a rolling basis," he said. "I think we're probably relatively close to making some calls."

The attorney general has called the Guantanamo work the toughest part of his job.

After eight years in which the previous Bush administration alienated European nations over issues like the Iraq war and Guantanamo Bay, the Obama administration is trying to strengthen those ties.

"I don't think they're looking for as much of American leadership as a partnership," said Holder.

After arriving in London on Sunday night, the attorney general and his staffers took a tour of the Tower of London—home of The Bloody Tower, a historic torture site.

Sheriff: Soldier killed 2 Fla. deputies in arrest

NICEVILLE, Fla. (AP)—More than 300 employees of a troubled Sheriff's Office in Florida gathered Sunday night to hear first hand how two of their own were killed a day earlier by a National Guard soldier they were trying to arrest for beating his wife.

They joined hands in prayer and shared tears and hugs as Okaloosa County's Interim Sheriff Ed Spooner tried to explain what went wrong during the brief shootout that left deputies Burt Lopez and Warren "Skip" York dead.

Their killer, Joshua Cartwright, was shot and killed soon after following a car chase into a neighboring county.

Spooon said the deputies had no information to make them think Cartwright would turn his weapons on them.

"This went from zero to 100 in a matter of minutes. In three minutes it turned from a passive discussion to a shooting, it was one heck of a mess,"

the sheriff told the group. Spooner was appointed to take over the department in Florida's panhandle by Gov. Charlie Crist just eight weeks ago after the previous sheriff was arrested by FBI agents on corruption charges.

Fellow law officers remembered Lopez for his calm demeanor and his love for his family. They remembered York as a free spirit who enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle. Both men had retired from careers with the Air Force at nearby Eglin Air Force Base when they joined the department.

Capt. J.D. Peacock supervised both men during his 20 years at the sheriff's office.

Peacock said Lopez, a father of five, was especially good at defusing tense situations such as domestic abuse calls.

"He was the person you would want in a confrontation because he calmed people down," he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Storms pound Midwest again, damaging buildings

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Strong thunderstorms packing possible tornadoes battered parts of the Midwest on Sunday for a second straight day, damaging at least half a dozen buildings and a campground in Iowa and two Oklahoma homes. Tornadoes were reported in eastern Iowa, western Oklahoma and south-central Kansas, but there were no immediate reports of serious injuries. In Kansas, a possible tornado touched down in the Lake Afton area southwest of Wichita. Two people were injured when the camper they were in was flipped by the storm, said Sgt. Oscar Thomasson of the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department. A possible tornado swept through the northeast part of Linn County, Iowa, destroying campers at a campground near Central City and causing "significant" damage to about a half-dozen homes and buildings in its path, said Mike Goldberg, the county's emergency coordinator.

CSI commander facing lawsuit in Neb. murder case

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Less than a week after being indicted for allegedly tampering with evidence in a homicide investigation, a crime scene investigator is being sued in federal court by one of the men who was wrongfully charged in the double-murder case. On Sunday, Nicholas Sampson filed paperwork to add David Kofoed, commander of the Douglas County CSI unit, and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office to a 2007 lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court against the Nebraska State Patrol and the Cass County Sheriff's Office. The amendment says Kofoed violated Sampson's constitutional rights by planting a speck of blood in a car Sampson had driven. Sampson spent five months in jail after being wrongfully charged in the deaths of Wayne and Sharmon Stock. The couple were found slain in their Cass County farmhouse on April 17, 2006. Both had been shot in the head at close range with a shotgun.

Officials: Iowa man cut pacemaker from dad's chest

MANCHESTER, Iowa (AP)—Authorities in northeast Iowa say a man faces charges accusing him of cutting a pacemaker out of his father's chest. The Delaware County sheriff's office says in a statement Sunday that 32-year-old Jesse Fierstine of Manchester struck his 63-year-old father, Charles Fierstine, on the head with a flashlight and a piece of firewood Saturday, then cut the pacemaker from his chest using a pocketknife. The statement says the younger Fierstine was charged with attempted murder. Charles Fierstine was taken to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. Officials didn't give details on his condition Sunday. The sheriff's office refused to release further details, referring questions to the county attorney's office, which was closed for the weekend. Online court records in the case were not yet available and no attorney could be located for Jesse Fierstine.

Asia

Pakistan again battles Taliban

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan sent helicopter gunships and troops to attack Taliban militants Sunday in a district covered by a peace deal after strong U.S. pressure on the nuclear-armed nation to confront insurgents advancing in its northwest.

At least 31 people were killed in the offensive, which sent some residents of Lower Dir district fleeing carrying small children and few belongings.

The operation appeared to endanger a peace pact struck with Taliban militants in neighboring Swat Valley, although a top official insisted the deal was "intact." Another official demanded the insurgents disarm,

but a Taliban spokesman said the militants would not give up their weapons.

The Lower Dir offensive also came ahead of Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari's scheduled meeting with President Barack Obama in early May, but Pakistani officials denied outside pressure influenced the move.

Television footage from the district showed at least two helicopter gunships heading toward the mountains. Troops guarded a road blocked with paramilitary trucks, while some families sat nearby. Another family headed away in a vehicle packed with luggage.

The operation killed at least 30 militants, including a com-

mander, plus one paramilitary soldier, according to an army statement and Interior Ministry chief Rehman Malik. The statement said the operation was launched at the request of the provincial government and local residents, but did not detail its scope or expected duration.

The government agreed to impose Islamic law in Swat and surrounding districts that make up Malakand Division if the Taliban there would end their violent campaign in the one-time tourist haven. Critics labeled the deal a "surrender" to the militants and warned Swat could turn into a haven for allies of al-Qaida.

Kim Jong Il's son elevated to defense post

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's youngest son has reportedly been named to the powerful National Defense Commission, an appointment analysts said Sunday indicates the 26-year-old is being groomed to take power.

Kim Jong Un speaks English, likes basketball—and is said to look and act just like his father.

The reclusive, nuclear-armed communist nation's next leader has been the focus of intense media speculation since Kim, 67, reportedly suffered a stroke last summer. Kim has ruled

with absolute authority since his father, Kim Il Sung, died in 1994, leading to the communist world's first hereditary power succession.

Kim Jong Il has allowed no opposition, raising concerns about a power struggle if he dies suddenly without naming a successor.

The eccentric leader has three known sons by two women. The oldest, Kim Jong Nam, was long considered his favorite—until he tried to sneak into Japan using a fake Dominican passport and visit Tokyo's Disney resort in 2001.

The middle son, Kim Jong Chol, apparently has never been a favorite as a possible leader. Kim Jong Il's former sushi chef says in a 2003 memoir that the leader considers his second son "girlish."

But talk about the youngest son has been growing. On Sunday, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported Kim Jong Un was assigned to a low-level post at the defense commission, the top government body, several days before his father was reappointed as the commission's chairman on April 9.

Sri Lankan rebels declare unilateral cease-fire

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Facing imminent battlefield defeat, Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels declared a unilateral cease-fire Sunday and called on the government to halt its offensive to spare the tens of thousands of civilians trapped by the fighting.

The government rejected the appeal and accused the rebels of playing for time as the military stands poised to rout them and end the separatist war that has plagued this Indian Ocean island nation for a quarter century.

"This is a joke," Defense Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa said of the rebels' truce offer.

The cease-fire declaration

came amid a chorus of international appeals for a pause in the fighting to allow the estimated 50,000 ethnic Tamil civilians remaining in the war zone to escape. The government and aid groups accuse the rebels of holding the civilians hostage to blunt the government offensive, a charge the rebels deny.

Reports from the region have detailed growing cases of starvation and civilian casualties in recent days.

The United Nations, which says nearly 6,500 civilians have been killed over the past three months, has sent its top humanitarian official on an emergency

mission to Sri Lanka to push for a cease-fire. John Holmes met Sunday with senior government officials to underscore "the urgent need for humanitarian access by the U.N. to the combat zone," U.N. spokesman Gordon Weiss said.

The government barred aid workers from the region when the fighting escalated in September.

Holmes was to head Monday to the northern region of Vavuniya to inspect displacement camps and hospitals that have been overwhelmed by the more than 100,000 civilians who fled the war zone over the past week.

'Megastar' draws huge crowds in Indian election

VIJAYAWADA, India (AP)—Chiranjeevi waved to the screaming boys standing in the tree branches and saluted the throngs of men dancing atop the bus roof. As his caravan crawled down the main road of this south Indian city, the movie-star-turned-politician bowed toward the women getting trampled and the driver who abandoned his car, doors still open, to join the raucous crowd. Chiranjeevi, the beloved hero of 149 adventure-romance films, has quickly become a political force since leaving Tollywood, the Telugu-language film industry that he ruled for three decades, to found his own party and contest elections in the key state of Andhra Pradesh. Blending Huey Long's populism, Ronald Reagan's charisma, Michael Jackson's moonwalk and Rod Blagojevich's haircut, the stocky, mustachioed actor, known to many simply as "Megastar," aims to become the latest in a long line of south Indian movie stars to transform godlike celebrity into political power.

World

Mexico City locks itself in amid swine flu fears



Health workers walk in the airport in Mexico City, Sunday, April 26, 2009. Health workers screened airports and bus stations Sunday for people sickened by a new strain of swine flu that experts fear could become a global epidemic. AP

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The cardinal said Mass in a shuttered cathedral. Soccer teams played to empty stadiums. Mexico's overcrowded capital locked itself indoors Sunday, terrified by a new strain of swine flu that was spreading around the world.

Mexico City residents - chilangos, they're called - are accustomed to living in public view. They eat greasy tacos at stands along smog-choked avenues, play pickup soccer games on potholed streets and snuggle with sweethearts on benches in tree-lined parks.

But on Sunday even the enormous Zocalo plaza, where throngs of families congregate for street performances and open-air concerts, was all but empty. A handful of women wearing surgical masks knelt on plaza's stones and prayed,

their arms reaching upward in a lonely vigil.

Soldiers in surgical masks shooed away the faithful at the cathedral, pointing to a board with pieces of paper.

"There are no baptisms," one read.

"No confirmations," read another.

"No Masses," said a third.

Inside, Cardinal Norberto Rivera delivered a sermon to nearly empty pews, his pleas for divine intervention relayed over television and radio.

"Grant us the prudence and serenity to act with responsibility and to avoid being infected or to infect others," he appealed to the Virgin of Guadalupe, Mexico's patron saint. "Give help to health workers, keep vigil for the recovery of the sick and console those in mourning."

Swine flu fears prompt quarantine plans, pork bans

GENEVA (AP)—Canada became the third country to confirm human cases of swine flu Sunday as global health officials considered whether to raise the global pandemic alert level.

Nations from New Zealand to Spain also reported suspected cases, and some warned citizens against travel to North America while others planned quarantines, tightened rules on pork imports and tested airline passengers for fevers.

The six Canadian cases in Nova Scotia and British Columbia all had links to people who had traveled to Mexico, and all are the same swine flu strain. The six people have recovered, said Dr. David Butler-Jones, Canada's chief public health officer.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq: US raid 'crime' that breaks security pact

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's prime minister denounced a deadly U.S. raid on Sunday as a "crime" that violated the security pact with Washington and demanded American commanders hand over those responsible to face possible trial in Iraqi courts. The U.S. military, however, strongly denied that it overstepped its bounds and said it notified Iraqi authorities in advance—in accordance with the rules that took effect this year governing U.S. battlefield conduct. The pre-dawn raid in the southern Shiite city of Kut ended with at least one woman dead after being caught in gunfire and six suspects arrested for alleged links to Shiite militia factions. But efforts were quickly launched in an attempt to tone down the dispute. The six detainees were released, said Major Gen. Read Shakir Jawdat, head of the provincial police that includes Kut. At the same news conference, U.S. Col. Richard Francey offered condolences to the family of the woman killed. The fallout marks the most serious test of the security pact so far and could bring new strains during a critical transition period.

Clinton says US never will 'sell out' Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP)—Ahead of an election that could

oust the U.S.-backed Beirut government, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Sunday that Washington supports "voices of moderation" and never will make a deal Syria that "sells out" Lebanon's interests. The June 7 vote could boost the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and its allies, possibly paving the way for renewed Syrian influence over Lebanon. "The people of Lebanon must be able to choose their own representatives in open and fair elections without the specter of violence or intimidation and free of outside interference," Clinton told a news conference after meeting with President Michel Suleiman. "Beyond the elections, we will continue to support the voices of moderation in Lebanon and the responsible institutions of the Lebanese state they are working hard to build. Our ongoing support for the Lebanese armed forces remains a pillar of our bilateral cooperation," she added. Syria dominated Lebanon for nearly three decades before it was forced to withdraw its tens of thousands of troops four years ago in the wake of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. There have been concerns among anti-Syrian factions in the pro-U.S. parliamentary majority that the Obama administration's talks with Syria could weaken American support for Lebanon.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Report: Filipino radicals help Indonesia brethren

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim Filipino rebels have helped Indonesian terror suspects evade capture by giving them refuge and access to weapons and funds in the southern Philippines, a government report says. The information was gleaned from a recently arrested rebel who told government interrogators that Indonesian terror suspect Umar Patek has established ties with Filipino militants in the region. A report on his interrogation was seen by The Associated Press on Monday. Omar Venancio told interrogators that Patek, who fled to southern Mindanao in 2003, had established links with at least five rebel groups in order to gain a safe haven for Jemaah Islamiyah, a radical Indonesia-based faction. U.S. and Philippine security officials have long been concerned that such tie-ups could allow foreign radicals to pass bomb-making skills and their extremist brand of Islam to Filipino militants and turn southern Philippine rebel strongholds into terrorist training grounds.

Overdrive

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

CONCERN

The term “affordable” requires more contextual wrapping. The BMW 1 Series is more affordable as the base 128i coupe, less so as the 128i convertible, and even less so as the 135i convertible. It is within reach of the financial field of dreams of many people as the base 135i coupe. But options can knock that price way out of the park.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

It is one of the most enjoyable compact sports coupes I’ve ever driven. It gets excellent marks in all three categories. The recommendation is that you drive the thing to get a real sense for what I’m saying here. Driving it explains everything.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

There were people who declared it the ugliest BMW they had ever seen, people who turned their noses up at the car. There were others who thought it “cute” and a few who considered it “hot.” The exterior styling of the BMW 1 Series, highlighted by bisculpted side panels, is not one that inspires consensus.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The BMW 1 Series is an entry-level luxury, compact, front-engine, rear-wheel-drive sports car available as coupe or convertible and sold in two trim levels — 128i and 135i.

ENGINES/TRANSMISSIONS

The base 128i comes with a three-liter, inline six-cylinder engine that develops 230 horsepower and 200 foot-pounds of torque. In the tested 135i, the 3-liter, inline six-cylinder engine is turbocharged to produce 300 horsepower at 5,800 revolutions per minute and 300 foot-pounds of torque at 1,400 rpm. A six-speed manual transmission is standard for both engines. A six-speed automatic — installed on the test car — is optional.

CAPACITIES

There are seats for four people. In the 135i coupe, there is enough trunk space for four, medium-size overnight bags (based on proof in real-world packing). The fuel tank holds 14 gallons of required premium unleaded gasoline. (Turbocharged engines, because of their high compression, usually require premium fuel.)

MILEAGE

I averaged 24 miles per gallon on the highway and 16 mpg moving nowhere fast in New York City traffic jams.

SAFETY

Standard equipment includes front and rear ventilated disc brakes with antilock protection, electronic traction and stability control, front and rear head air bags, side air bags, and xenon high-intensity discharge headlights.

PRICE

The base price on the 2009 BMW 135i coupe is \$35,850. Dealer’s invoice price on that model is \$32,980. Price as tested is \$44,800, including \$8,125 in options (leather seats, navigation, six-speed automatic transmission, M-sports trim package, among other items) and an \$825 destination charge. Dealer’s price as tested is \$41,255. A consumer rebate of \$750 is available, or financing at a 1.9-percent annual percentage rate. Prices are sourced from BMW, Edmunds.com, and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

BMW owns this compact, entry-level luxury sports class. There is no real substitute.

2009 BMW 135i

A joyful ride for those who love the drive



THE WASHINGTON POST

There were people who declared the 2009 BMW 135i compact sports coupe the ugliest BMW they had ever seen, others who thought it “cute” and a few who considered it “hot.” The exterior styling of the BMW 1 Series, highlighted by bisculpted side panels, is not one that inspires consensus.

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

CORNWALL, N.Y.—Bad times are best enjoyed in the rearview mirror. So mostly for the heck of it, I got in the 2009 BMW 135i coupe and drove here nearly 300 miles from my Virginia home.

The women in my family would’ve had me do otherwise—hop a plane, take a train or ride a bus from Virginia to New York. I will do that sort of thing eventually. But now I’ll passionately proclaim my support for mass transit while doing everything in my power to avoid it.

That, to many people, is an unseemly charade, one worthy of a politician—other than, of course, Vice President Joe Biden, who seems to have a genuine thing for Amtrak.

But I can explain.

I love cars. I am hopelessly addicted to them, although I am keenly aware of their rather steep down-

side in matters environmental and energy. I require no intervention. None would work, anyway. Just put me in something like the 135i coupe and let me go.

It is the kind of car loved by people who love driving—rear-wheel drive, diminutive yet gifted with power (in this case, 300 horsepower delivered by an inline six-cylinder engine) and wonderfully agile on surfaces such as Angola Road here, which twists, turns, dips, disappears and reappears around curves.

There’s just something to love about a car that intuitively follows all of that. It’s like the motorized version of a faithful dog who follows you everywhere, knows your moves, and senses your mood. It is the car as pet.

That means it also comes with a few surprises—happily, all of them good. The first is comfort.

Coupes and roadsters inherently are selfish cars, “me-mobiles” often

expressly designed for the pleasure of the driver. The 135i certainly delivers on that score. But even there, it does its job in a way that doesn’t wear out the car’s driver or its passengers.

A part of the secret is BMW’s application of common sense. Unlike some of its rivals, BMW does not attempt to stuff five seats into a compact coupe that is more desirable for four people. There are four seats—two up front and two in the rear, and that’s that. The result is enough headroom and legroom for four people, which helps to keep those four people reasonably civil on long trips.

The second surprise is the sheer ease with which the 135i graces the road. Put another way, it does a good job of providing driving excitement without demanding Grand Prix racing competence from the driver.

I like that. I want to have fun behind the wheel without being made to feel less than worthy for sitting

there, which is the way some automobiles—I’m thinking the \$1.45 million Lamborghini Reventon—can make you feel.

Models such as the Reventon are so expensive, so powerful, so technologically sophisticated, and so darned fast, they quite literally leave you breathless, thinking that you should be somewhere else instead of the driver’s seat, overwhelmed with the anxiety of possibly crashing the thing or doing some other damage that will scar you and the car forever.

There is excitement in driving cars such as the Reventon. But, for me, there is no fundamental joy in doing so, certainly not the kind I get from getting behind the wheel of a well-crafted, well-balanced, reasonably affordable (for successful entrepreneurs or wage slaves still fortunate enough to be in jobs that pay higher tax-rate salaries) coupe such as the BMW 135i.

GM to announce brand changes, restructuring moves

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Corp. will announce details of its massive restructuring plan on Monday, including the demise of its storied Pontiac brand, more factory closures and bigger job cuts as it fights to avoid bankruptcy protection.

The struggling automaker must make the announcement in advance of a planned offer to its bondholders to swap debt for company stock. GM owes \$28 billion to large and small bondholders, and under Securities and Exchange Commission rules, it must disclose its operational plans before making an exchange offer.

Two people briefed on GM’s plan said the company has decided to close more factories than the five it announced in February. But the locations of the doomed factories will not be identified Monday, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the plan has not yet been made public.

One of the people said GM will

list specific numbers of blue-collar job cuts, and announce another round of U.S. salaried job cuts beyond the 3,400 completed last week.

Chief Executive Fritz Henderson has said the company will go further and faster in making its cost cuts to reduce the number of cars and trucks it needs to sell to break even. One of the people briefed on the plan said GM will accelerate many cuts previously planned for 2014 to instead take place between now and 2010, although specifics were not available.

Both people confirmed that the plan includes the death of Pontiac, famous for the Trans Am sports car and the GTO. Efforts in the last few years to market Pontiac as performance-oriented brand failed to work. The company had said it wanted to keep Pontiac as a niche brand with one or two models, but is buckling under tremendous government pressure to consolidate its eight brands, several of which lose money.

The people said GM won’t have much new information on Hummer, Saturn or other brands, including Europe’s Opel. GM has indicated it wants to focus on four core brands, Chevrolet, Cadillac, GMC and Buick.

Also to be announced Monday will be a target number for dealer reduction, as well as details of GM’s bond exchange offer. But exact numbers were not available Sunday night.

The 9 a.m. EDT news conference will include Chief Executive Fritz Henderson, Chief Financial Officer Ray Young, North American President Troy Clarke and Mark LaNeve, vice president of North American sales and marketing.

GM is living on \$15.4 billion in government loans and faces a government-imposed June 1 deadline to restructure or go into bankruptcy protection.

The government’s restructuring demands include swapping at least two thirds of GM’s unsecured bond

debt for equity in the company. Such a move would help GM straighten out its debt-laden balance sheet.

Chrysler LLC, which is living on \$4 billion in government loans and is expected to get \$500 million more, faces a Thursday deadline to restructure and ink an alliance deal with Italian automaker Fiat SpA. The government also wants Chrysler to exchange much of its \$6.9 billion in debt for equity in the company, but with the deadline fast approaching, Chrysler and its secured debtholders remain far apart.

Both GM and Chrysler also must win concessions from the United Auto Workers union. The UAW said late Sunday that it had reached agreement on concessions with Chrysler, Fiat and the U.S. government. Fiat CEO Sergio Marchionne was in the U.S. as talks continued for the automaker to take a 20 percent stake in Chrysler in exchange for its small-car technology.

Life & Style

HOLLYWOOD—In nightclubs and strip joints across the country, the song of the moment is Jamie Foxx's "Blame It (On the Alcohol)," a leering tale of bad boys, well, behaving badly. The hit certainly inspired a few smirks in Hollywood, where Foxx has become a respected star but also has a reputation for playing as hard as he works. So last year, on the set of "The Soloist," when there were whispers that the star was in a volatile place, many people assumed it was because he was having too much fun.

They could not have been more wrong, according to Foxx.

"I was in a bad place because I felt like I might be literally losing my mind," the Oscar-winning actor said of his immersion into the role of Nathaniel Ayers, a homeless man and former music prodigy lost in the mad muttering and slippery reality of schizophrenia. The film, opening Friday, explores the bond between the real-life Ayers and Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez (portrayed by Robert Downey Jr.) and shines a compassionate light onto the indigent street life in downtown Los Angeles. But for Foxx, the subject matter became unsettling during the shoot because of very specific and personal resonance with his past.

"There's sort of a private thing for me, something I haven't really told many people about," Foxx said recently, sitting in a quiet corner of a Beverly Hills restaurant and talking fast. "When I was 18, somebody slipped something in my drink. And it ripped me apart. I had to go to the hospital. I mean, I was gone. It was the kind of trip that ... you know you're losing your mind. I kept thinking, 'I can't live like this.' It didn't go away, either—for 11 months, I had flashbacks."

Foxx looked rattled as he explained all of this, which is unusual considering his typical swagger and chiseled cool both on stage and in reputation. The 41-year-old is one of the biggest stars in America if you add it all up: his film success, the surprisingly potent music career, his own satellite radio channel and his persistent reputation in comedy, much of it earned with his popular namesake television show before he moved on in 2001.

On screen, Foxx rarely has looked truly vulnerable, even in his role as the ferociously talented and bitterly addicted Ray Charles in 2004's "Ray," which won him an Academy Award. But in the "The Soloist," there are points where an unsentimental camera lingers on his stricken face and the man on the screen seems very much like a person doubting the contents of his own brainpan. Now, if he is speaking without exaggeration, that is precisely what he brought to the role.

"I thought about just walking away from this movie," said Foxx, who suffered from panic attacks and bouts of paranoia during filming. Instead of bolting, he visited with psychiatrists, turned for help to the film's director, Joe Wright ("Atonement," "Pride & Prejudice"), and also educated himself on the mental-health realities versus the vaporous fears he felt as he studied Ayers in his element.

"I had gone and watched Nathaniel; I had a little bit of a disguise, and I spent time following him and studying him when he didn't know I was there, and as I was dissecting and downloading, I got really worried. I felt all these things," Foxx said. "I went to a psychiatrist and I actually asked, 'Can I catch schizophrenia?' Now I know you can't, but I also knew I had this thing happen

to me before, and it felt like it was going to happen again."

Actors are, by their nature, drawn to drama and all that goes with it, so a skeptic might wonder if Foxx is goosing his account to promote his film or slipping a bit into the voice of a fabulist. (He also inspires a roll of the eyes when he says things such as, "Well, this one time I took too many energy pills," when asked about mistakes he has made or what he views as the public's misconceptions about his personal character.) But that's not the case, according to director Wright, who spoke in somber tones about the wrenching

the careful diction of a hostage negotiator. The filmmaker and mogul told Foxx that movies about the mind can take an unexpected toll and that the actor shouldn't be afraid to seek help. All Foxx could think about was the symptoms that gave him away: "Does it show? People can tell?"

■ ■ ■ ■

It may be an indelicate analogy considering the grim mental-health issues raised by "The Soloist," but Foxx's career has a split personality. The man who asked for a psychiatrist to be on call while he plumbed the depths of a scabby, heart-wrenching film role is

University of California, Los Angeles, where a psychiatrist was a mental-health guide for the actor but also a source of material for shaping an authentic on-screen version of Ayers. "He told me schizophrenia is the single scariest thing that can happen to you," Foxx recounted while staring down at the palms of his hands.

"It's one thing to go crazy and not know it, but if you feel yourself slipping in," Foxx said, "then it's like drowning, going down. That's how I felt as a teenager, and just getting close to it again, I could feel the sweat coming, and I felt like I had to run out of there."



LOS ANGELES TIMES

"I was in a bad place because I felt like I might be literally losing my mind," says Oscar-winning actor Jaime Foxx of his immersion in the role of Nathaniel Ayers in "The Soloist," about a homeless man and former music prodigy lost in the mad muttering and slippery reality of schizophrenia.

Jamie Foxx names this tune

By GEOFF BOUCHER

(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

ordeal he watched the actor endure.

"First of all, the Jamie that I got to know is completely opposite to the public perception of who Jamie Foxx is, which is based on an image in comedy and music that he has created," the British filmmaker said. "That's an alter ego created as protection, and its wall of artifice is 6 feet deep. He is much more fragile than his alter ego. In the making of this film, I felt I had a first priority to be a safety net for him. We all came to see the risk he was at—or the risk as he felt it. We weren't going to lose him into that dark hole."

Foxx said Wright and costar Downey (who, of course, spent years sliding down the banisters of 12-step programs) did their best to help as Foxx tried to navigate choppy waters. But it soon became clear to Foxx that the problems he was having weren't a secret as filming began in early 2008. The actor acknowledged that Steven Spielberg, who had a vested interest in "The Soloist" through DreamWorks SKG, approached Foxx at a party with

also the same guy who used his satellite comedy show last week for a cringe-inducing attack on young Miley Cyrus in which he suggested she smoke crack, make a sex tape with her father and "catch chlamydia from a bicycle seat." (He later apologized to Cyrus during a "Tonight Show" appearance.)

The star shrugged when asked which of his fans are getting the real Foxx. "Who I am depends on where you see me."

If it's hard to pin down Foxx, it's because the man is a master imitator of others. "He is a brilliant mimic," Wright said. "That may be his most obvious talent. But if he wasn't also a gifted actor, it would just be empty imitation, no performance underneath."

In "The Soloist," Ayers is presented as a street scavenger whose background as a music prodigy is slowly pieced together by a newspaper journalist who is at crossroads in his own life professionally and personally. The crux of the story is the question: "Am I my brother's keeper?" And if so, on whose terms?

Wright joined Foxx in visits to the

In his 20s, Foxx said, the voices on the edge of his mind grew quiet and he assumed that what happened to him was both fleeting and perhaps exaggerated in his memory. One night he wandered into a San Diego comedy club and there, at a friend's dare, he ended up on stage. He lighted up the place and found a circuitous path to fame. The comedy led to TV, which then led to movies and, finally, his biggest passion, music.

"I didn't want to be in comedy; I didn't plan on being in movies—I wanted to be Lionel Ritchie," he said. "That was the goal."

Foxx is a full-on music star now with three albums that have sold close to 4.5 million copies in the U.S. alone, an impressive amount in the diminished recording industry of today. He has performed on the Grammys and, oddly, the Country Music Association Awards, and is about to launch a 30-date tour.

The songs are often Lothario anthems, like "Blame It (On the Alco-

hol)," often as deep as a shot glass. In a flash of candor, Foxx confides he isn't a huge fan of the music he puts out, but that Timbaland and other producers told him that the music he hears in his head—piano melodies his old hero Ritchie would enjoy—are too outdated for today's youth.

"It's tough," Foxx said. "But I learned that you have to listen. If you don't listen as you get older in your career, you'll fall. You have to trust your instincts as far as the shape of things."

Foxx is, no surprise, a pretty funny guy. Asked about recent jobs he has turned down, he launched into a mini-routine about all "the famous old black men" roles he has been offered after the Oscar win. "Jamie Foxx is Martin Luther King Jr. Jamie Foxx is Malcolm X. Jamie Foxx is Black History Month." Then, acting like he was practicing for a role as the newest White House occupant, he launched into a pitch-perfect version of Barack Obama that had nearby bar patrons giggling in delight.

Shifting down into a serious gear, he said the Academy Award has given him a chance to pursue meaningful roles, and that, after some action-film missteps ("Miami Vice" and "Stealth"), he will be more selective. "I've asked my agent to find me beautiful-character movies," he said. "That's where we flourish."

Foxx became immersed in the ramping victory of Obama and found himself in Washington, D.C., feeling the wind of history blowing across his face. After all of that, and following his eye-opening experiences with "The Soloist," he made a dramatic change. The bachelor moved his mother, his stepfather and his two sisters west to live with him in his home; he wanted a family, even if it was one that didn't exist around him during his childhood.

"I just looked at my mother, and she's getting of age, and I just felt like ... if we are around each other enough ... maybe something will happen," Foxx said. "I came to the realization that family has to be the most important thing, even if it takes work, like group therapy and individual therapy, which we are doing."

But like in "The Soloist," engagement doesn't guarantee a tidy ending. Foxx said he is struggling to find a way past his resentments toward his mother. He also has been unable to connect with his father; the problem there is a cultural one, with his father's conversion to Islam and disdain for his son's spiritual life.

Making these private issues public is yet another surprise by the pop-culture chameleon, the guy who poses and postures in music videos but also aspires to walk across the Oscar stage again by "playing roles that show the deeper side of all of us." He said he doesn't expect his portrayal of Ayers to resonate with audiences in the same way that "Ray" did because of the movie's challenging subject matter, but he also knows that this role and his experiences preparing for it will remain with him.

"There was this one kid I met who was blind and he loved music, and the next thing I know I'm dancing with this kid," Foxx said. "I mean for me to do that ... well, sometimes I feel like I'm on such a conveyor-belt life. Actor, musician, radio show—and then something will happen. I end up dancing with these homeless people and feeling like I understand something new. What does it all mean? For me, it meant a lot. And I don't care if that sounds crazy."

Mike Tyson pulls no punches in documentary

By REED JOHNSON
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—The head-shrink session is about to resume.

In a Beverly Hills hotel, at a table overlooking the garden, James Toback and Mike Tyson are energetically discussing the Oedipus complex, madness, women and, of course, boxing. It's the latest installment of their ongoing quarter-century dialogue that now has become the centerpiece of Toback's intriguing and unsettling "documentary portrait": "Tyson." The movie opens in theaters Friday.

In the ring, "Iron Mike" used to make his opponents kiss the canvas just minutes or even seconds after they came out of their corners. His demeanor and muscle-plated physique evoked an enraged rhino and the coiled savagery of his blows made observers wince. But as Toback's movie depicts, the former world heavyweight champion's most brutally relentless adversary always was himself.

The film, for which Tyson supplies the entire narration, follows its subject as he wanders the solitary labyrinths of his mind: from his violent and humiliating Brooklyn youth, when he was mocked as a fat kid who wanted to be a street hustler; through his rapid rise to his sport's pinnacle when he was barely out of his teens; to his appalling public meltdown that resulted in a broken marriage, a rape conviction, prison time and the disgraceful episode of the Bitten Ear, followed by a half-hearted comeback and retirement.

Those scenes set the stage for the 91-minute pugilistic passion play that is "Tyson," in which audiences will discover a man steeped in self-recriminations, desperately and apparently sincerely struggling, at 42, to figure out who he is and how he nearly allowed his demons (drugs, addictive sex, thuggish outbursts) to destroy him.

"Darkness is very alluring," Tyson says in his soft, incongruously high-pitched voice. "I know it kind of sounds crazy, but the dark world is just fascinating. We call it, where I come from, we call it dancing with the devil."

In venturing into the darkness, "Tyson" becomes a harrowing travelogue into one man's inner Ninth Circle, with the unseen Toback asking questions and gently nudging his subject along like a combination of Dr. Phil and the Roman poet Virgil, Dante's intrepid guide. The movie has one or two self-consciously arty flourishes, including a shot of Tyson gazing meditatively at crashing ocean waves while we hear his voice intoning Oscar Wilde's famous lines from "The Ballad of Reading Gaol" ("each man kills the thing he loves").

Yet the film convinces us that,

in contrast to his coarse, almost cartoonish popular persona, Tyson can be a thoughtful, insightful and eloquent warrior. "He has a poetic sensibility," says Toback, "and if you allow it to come out, it comes out."

Toback and Tyson met on the set of the director's "The Pickup Artist" (1987), when Tyson was a little-known puncher trying to make a name for himself in boxing rings in places like Troy, N.Y. He'd been trained by the late, legendary Cus D'Amato, who appears in archival footage as a more troubling figure than the kindly, white-haired Obi-Wan Kenobi he portrayed publicly.

"I have such a different perspective of boxing, from Cus D'Amato," Tyson says, "a real dark perspective." Reflecting on his mentor, Tyson makes clear his present revulsion at the old man's preparation methods in the arts of war, which were grounded in the belief that a boxer should intimidate and humiliate his foes, constantly dehumanizing them, so that he has no qualms about inflicting maximum destruction on their bodies. "It was this real sick (stuff), you know," Tyson says.

Destructive, and self-destructive, activity is a particular obsession of Toback, 64, the director-writer of several edgy, well-regarded films about high-risk behavior and cross-cultural intrigue ("Love and Money," "Black and White"), and an Oscar-nominated screenplay author for "Bugsy." As a younger man, he waged his own epic battles with drug abuse and gambling, striking Faustian bargains with himself that as long as he maintained his outstanding school grades he could indulge his sybaritic appetites as much as he pleased.

"I was doing stuff that no one else would believe in high school," says Toback. "And then I went to Harvard; I was doing the same thing. And my last drug trip of my life, I flipped out on LSD when I was 19, and that ended it to a degree because I thought, 'All of this is headed towards the abyss.'"

When the men's friendship began, Tyson had been hanging out at football great Jim Brown's house a lot, immersing himself in L.A.'s heady celebrity party scene. Tyson was intrigued by Toback's tales of his own wretched excesses and a bond was forged. Always intrigued by his prismatic friend, Toback (who had written a book about Brown in the early '70s) finally decided the time had come to make his docu-portrait of Tyson.

It was Toback's idea for Tyson to narrate the movie in a stream-of-consciousness style. The filmmaker stayed off-camera and out of his subject's sightline while asking him open-ended questions such as, "What are your feelings about



LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Darkness is very alluring. I know it kind of sounds crazy," Mike Tyson says. "Where I come from, we call it dancing with the devil."

sex?" and "What is your relationship to money?"

The resulting passionate monologue presents a sympathetically subjective view of Tyson, the man, while turning Tyson, the myth, sideways. Lispering, blurting out his deepest insecurities and occasionally wiping tears from his tattooed cheek, Tyson emerges in the film as a massively conflicted, emotionally outsized man-child in the pummeled land.

"It's like a portrait of these great, tortured artists like Gauguin and Van Gogh," Toback says. "You look at their self-portraits and they're filled with turmoil and contradiction."

A number of archetypal themes shadow Tyson's on-screen ruminations: fathers and father surrogates (usually either absentee or manipulative and authoritarian in Tyson's case); male-female relations (Tyson confesses he's attracted to strong women "and then I want to dominate her sexually").

Tyson also spends a fair amount of the film's second half beating up on himself, frequently with the same vicious relish he displayed toward his opponents. Asked whether he isn't being overly harsh on himself at times, he shakes his head.

"I have to beat up on myself," he says, "because nobody else

will." He refuses to pardon his past boorishness or brutality, or take refuge in his athletic triumphs. "I'm an out-of-shape, washed-up boxer, you know I mean? And my life, everything that I knew, the life that I once knew is just dead. . . . I don't think about that."

At present, Tyson says, he's concentrating on trying to be a good father and staying clean, sober and out of trouble. Those sound like narrow attainments for a man who once struck fear in some of the toughest guys in the world. But as Tyson sees it, there's no telling whether he'll still be standing for the next round.

"Being at home on the couch every day, having my girlfriend cooking food, playing with my baby, I may go out to the gym, watch some young fighter and then come back, that's just such a safe environment. I can't get in no trouble. I don't got no time to meet no beautiful women in two hours. And I don't got time to go to no strip club. I don't got no time to go to no dope house."

"I don't know what I might do, so that's why I don't put myself in that situation. I can't say I'm some 100 percent cured of drinking or drugs. I don't put myself in that situation. The urges are bad enough. If you hang out in the barbershop long enough, you're gonna get a haircut."

In Celebration of His New Life

†VICENTE AGUON SANCHEZ

July 27, 1949-April 22, 2009

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Parents-in-Law: Joaquin D. and Ana C. Dela Cruz
Sister: Frances Sanchez Sablan
Brother-in-Law: Pedro C. Dela Cruz
Sister-in-Law: Maria C. Dela Cruz
Niece: Margarita C. Sanchez

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Lourdes Dela Cruz Sanchez

Children and Spouses:

Tracy & Juan U. Maratita: Sheyvonne (Evangeline), Sorene, Juan II, Pedro
Ann Margaret & Ronney Ito: Michael Vincent, Edgar James, Stacey Frances, Thomas, Kenneth, Aaron Jack & Cassie
Vincent Joaquin DLC. Sanchez
Lauren & Joe Terlaje: Hiram, Vayda (Gordon Joe), Benjamin Kiroy, Elisabella Reid & Margarita Leighanna
Frankie DLC. Sanchez & Jessica Woolsey

Brother:

Ramon Aguon & Annie Sanchez and Children

Brothers and Sisters-in-Law:

Juan & Barbara Sablan and Children
Tannie & Nicolas Salas and Children
Delgadina Dela Cruz and Children
Margarita & Jesus Leon Guerrero and Children
Da Dela Cruz and Daughter
Ramon & Sophia Dela Cruz and Children
Antonio & Vanessa Dela Cruz and Children

Daily Mass is offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa at 6:00AM. Nightly Rosary is said at 7:30PM at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. On April 30, 2009, his remains will be escorted from CHC Morgue to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 AM and Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 AM followed by his burial at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers
WIFE, CHILDREN AND FAMILY



Fans fixate on Beyonce as 'Obsessed' takes in \$28M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Audiences were in the mood for some fatal attraction action at the box office.

Beyonce Knowles and Idris Elba's "Obsessed" debuted as the top weekend movie with \$28.5 million in ticket sales. The Sony Screen Gems thriller stars Knowles and Elba as a couple whose ideal marriage lands on the rocks after a psychotic temp played by Ali Larter begins stalking the husband.

The strong opening for "Obsessed" helped maintain Hollywood's hot streak, with overall revenues at about \$112 million, up 23.5 percent from the same weekend last year, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers. The busy summer season starts Friday with 20th Century Fox's spinoff "X-Men Origins: Wolverine," starring Hugh Jackman in the title role he played in three "X-Men" blockbusters.

Studios head into summer on a box-office tear, with receipts running at a record pace. Revenues for the year are at \$3.06 billion, up 17.4 percent over last year. Factoring in higher ticket prices,

movie attendance is up 15.7 percent.

"We have never been in this strong a position heading into the summer season, ever," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers.

Zac Efron's "17 Again" and Channing Tatum's "Fighting" were neck-and-neck for the No. 2 spot. With Sunday estimates of \$11.7 million, the Warner Bros. comedy "17 Again" had the edge. After debuting in first-place a week earlier, "17 Again" raised its 10-day total to \$40 million.

Rogue Pictures' "Fighting," starring Tatum and Terrence Howard in the story of a rising star in New York City's underground bare-knuckle fight circuit, debuted with \$11.4 million.

The two movies were close enough that rankings could change when final numbers come out Monday.

Paramount's drama "The Soloist" opened at No. 4 with \$9.7 million. It stars Jamie Foxx as a schizophrenic music prodigy living on the streets of Los Angeles and Robert Downey Jr. as a reporter who befriends him.



Actress Beyonce Knowles attends the Cinema Society premiere of "Obsessed," in New York, on Thursday, April 23, 2009.

Disney's nature documentary "Earth" premiered in fifth place with \$8.6 million, bringing its total to \$14.2 million since opening Wednesday.

"Obsessed" was not screened in advance for critics, and those who re-

viewed it generally trashed the movie as a lame retread of 1987's "Fatal Attraction," which starred Glenn Close as a demented woman pursuing a married man, played by Michael Douglas.

But "Obsessed" had the lure of singer Knowles stepping out from her pop star image and duking it out with the crazy lady threatening her home and marriage.

"There's something about wanting to see Beyonce kick butt. She's taking on one wacked chick, played very well by Ali Larter," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony. "Let's face it, everyone loves Beyonce, and to see her in this role is a treat."

Documentaries rarely open in nationwide release or break into the top 10, but Disney aimed for a wide audience with "Earth," which traces families of polar bears, elephants and humpback whales over the course of a year.

Disney pledged to plant a tree for every viewer who sees the movie in the first week, with the number climbing to more than 2 million after five days. The film was tied to Earth Day and was the first re-

1. "Obsessed," \$28.5 million.
2. "17 Again," \$11.7 million.
3. "Fighting," \$11.4 million.
4. "The Soloist," \$9.7 million.
5. "Earth," \$8.6 million.
6. "Monsters vs. Aliens," \$8.5 million.
7. "State of Play," \$6.9 million.
8. "Hannah Montana: The Movie," \$6.4 million.
9. "Fast & Furious," \$6.1 million.
10. "Crank: High Voltage," \$2.4 million.

lease of the studio's DisneyNature label.

"We just felt like if we make an event out of this, tied it to this whole plant-a-tree effort, tied it to Earth Day, maybe we could break the mold and come up with the kind of opening that you'd be satisfied with on a regular film," said Mark Zoradi, president of Disney's motion-picture group.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

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Fighting

Friday	4:15	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30
Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:30	

Channing Tatum, Terrence Howard
 Urban, Crime • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Small-town boy Shawn MacArthur has come to New York City with nothing. Barely earning a living selling counterfeit goods on the streets, his luck changes when scam artist Harvey Boardman sees that he has a natural talent for streetfighting. When Harvey offers Shawn help at making the real cash, the two form an uneasy partnership. As Shawn's manager, Harvey introduces him to the corrupt bare-knuckle circuit, where rich men bet on disposable pawns.



17 Again

Friday	4:00	7:05	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:05
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:05
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:05	

Zac Efron, Leslie Mann
 Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A middle-aged father wakes up to find he's seventeen again. So, he enrolls in the same high school as his children to be close to them. And in trying to recapture his best years, Mike could lose the best things that ever happened to him.



Crank: High Voltage

Friday	4:10	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:25
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:25	

Jason Statham, Amy Smart
 Action, Thriller, Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

Hitman Chev Chelios is kidnapped by a mysterious Chinese mobster. Three months later, he wakes up to discover his nearly indestructible heart has been surgically removed and replaced with a battery-operated ticker that requires regular jolts of electricity in order to work. After a dangerous escape from his captors, Chev is on the run again, this time from the charismatic Mexican gang boss El Huron and the Chinese Triads, headed by the dangerous 100-year-old elder Poon Dong.



State of Play

Friday	4:20	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:10
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:10
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:10	

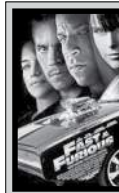
Russel Crowe, Ben Affleck
 Drama, Political • Rated PG 13



You Changed My Life

Friday	4:30	7:15	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:15
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:15
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:15	

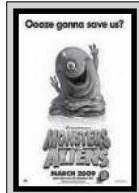
John Lloyd Cruz, Sarah Geronimo
 Romance, Comedy • Rated NR



Fast & Furious

Friday	4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:20	

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
 Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13



Monsters vs. Aliens

Friday	4:05	7:00	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:00
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:00
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:00	

Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie
 Action, Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

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Miss Calif. gets heroine's welcome at SD church

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Miss California Carrie Prejean, who became the bombshell of the Miss USA pageant by saying gay couples should not be allowed to marry, said Sunday that her state sponsors urged her to apologize afterward but she rejected the advice.

Prejean, 21, said officials from the Miss California USA pageant were worried that her comments would cost their contest financial backing and tried to prepare her for a string of post-pageant media interviews by discouraging her from discussing her religious beliefs.

"You need to apologize to the gay community. You need to not talk about your faith. This has everything to do with you representing California and saving the brand," Prejean recalled being told. "I was representing California. I was representing the majority of people in California."

She offered her version of the tense hours following the April 19 Miss USA pageant while appearing at the San Diego megachurch that has helped shape her views. The Rock Church, founded by former San Diego Chargers defensive back Miles McPherson, was active in the campaign to pass a constitutional ban on gay marriages in California last year.

Prejean, who was named first runner-up to Miss North Carolina and will remain Miss California until November, has spent the last week defending her comments, made during the pageant's final round. They came in response to celebrity blogger Perez Hilton's question about legalizing same-sex marriage.

"I think it's great that Americans are able to choose one or the other. We live in a land where you can choose same-sex marriage or opposite marriage," she said. "And you know what? I think in my country, in my family, I think that I believe that a marriage should be between a man and a woman. No offense to anybody out there, but that's how I was raised."

Hilton, who is gay, stoked the 30-second ex-

change the next day when he cursed the beauty queen on his blog and suggested her response may have cost Prejean the Miss USA crown.

Officials from K2 Productions, which produces the Miss California USA pageant, did not immediately return a phone call Sunday from The Associated Press seeking to verify Prejean's account.

The San Diego Christian College junior, model and member of the San Diego Padres "Pad Squad" received a heroine's welcome from fellow members of the Rock, where she was the guest of honor at morning services. Seated onstage across from McPherson, she recalled resisting multiple opportunities—from her appearance on NBC's "Today" show to a performance with Miss USA pageant owner Donald Trump—to edit, explain or expound upon her remarks.

"I knew I had to stay true to my beliefs and not let them intimidate me into taking back what I said because I don't take back what I said," she said.

Rashad Robinson, media programs director for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, said Prejean's honesty would have been admirable if, in frankly

expressing her opinion, she hadn't misspoke.

"Contrary to Miss California's claim, people can't choose, gay and lesbian couples don't have a choice except in a handful of states," Robinson said. "In her extensive public platform since then, she hasn't clarified that, she hasn't walked back from what are clearly misstatements."

Because the contestant's scores are supposed to be kept secret, it may never be known whether Prejean would have won had she not drawn Hilton's question. Trump has said one part of the pageant would not have decided the outcome. Other pageant veterans, however, say that based on her standing as first runner-up, low scores from one judge would have been enough to cost Prejean the title.



Miss California Carrie Prejean waves as she comes on stage at the Rock Church during services in San Diego Sunday, April, 26, 2009.

Tyra to testify at alleged stalker's NYC trial

NEW YORK (AP)—Model-turned-television personality Tyra Banks is due in court this week to testify against a Georgia man accused of following her from one side of the country to another.

Banks, host of TV's "America's Next Top Model," is to testify in a Manhattan courtroom where Brady Green goes on trial on charges of stalking her.

Green, of Dublin, Ga., is accused of following Banks from coast to coast since January of last year. He was arrested in a McDonald's near the Manhattan building where "The Tyra Banks Show" is taped after he tried to see her on March 18, 2008.

Green told police then, "I know her. She knows me. We're good friends." He said he "came by bus

(from Los Angeles) to see her."

"We had a thing together," court papers quote Green as telling police. "I sent her flowers. I sent her cards. Should I plead no contest? I've got satellites watching me and recording us."

Green, 38, has pleaded not guilty to stalking, harassment and criminal trespass. He faces up to 90 days in jail if convicted by Manhattan Criminal Court Judge James Burke, who is hearing the case without a jury.

Green has rejected several non-jail plea deals offered by the prosecution. If he had accepted the plea offers, Banks' testimony would not have been necessary and he would not have seen her in court.

Burke scheduled the start of Green's trial after a hearing in



AP
This March 28, 2009 photo shows television personality Tyra Banks attends the 20th Annual GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) Media Awards in New York.

which he ruled that most statements the defendant made to police could be used as trial evidence.

Banks, 35, has to appear in court to testify she was alarmed and feared for her physical safety. This emotional distress is an element of the criminal charges against Green.

A criminal complaint filed when Green was arrested says building custodian Edward Troiano told police the defendant also had appeared at Banks' Los Angeles studio "on multiple occasions" and asked to speak to her.

The complaint says Troiano reported Green had sent letters and flowers to Banks there and had tried to reach her there by telephone at least five times. Troiano also might testify at Green's trial.

Hayek, Pinault renew vows among stars in Venice

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Salma Hayek and her husband have tied the knot—again.

Hayek spokeswoman Jillian Fowkes said Sunday in Los Angeles that the Mexican-born actress and French magnate Francois-Henri Pinault renewed their wedding vows Saturday in a ceremony at Venice's La Fenice opera house.

Hayek and Pinault originally were married in a small civil ceremony in Paris last Valentine's Day. This time, the couple made it a weekend-long celebration, starting with a cocktail party at Punta della Dogana, an art museum owned by the groom's father, Francois Pinault.

Among those attending were actresses Charlize Theron, Penelope Cruz and Ashley Judd, plus U2 frontman Bono and Vogue editor Anna Wintour, as well as former French President Jacques Chirac.

In this photo provided by ID Public Relations, Mexican actress Salma Hayek and French businessman Francois-Henri Pinault are shown at their wedding in Venice, Italy, Saturday, April 25, 2009.

Access to medical information is governed by complex rules

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR READERS: After the letter from "Frantic Mom in Philadelphia" (Jan. 30) was published, several physicians wrote to express concern that I was suggesting that doctors violate the HIPAA laws by talking to families without consent. This is not what I was suggesting. The goal of HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) is to protect patient information and standardize the transmission of patient health information between health organizations.



Dear Abby

The Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights Web site (www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa) offers a variety of resources to help people understand HIPAA. The rules are complex and—like any rules—can have unintended consequences. They were NOT meant to discourage doctor-family communication, but only to give patients some control over their medical information.

Doctors are well within their rights to encourage patients to give consent for sharing information with family members, and they need to explain why it's important. Collaboration is needed when families are deeply involved in their loved ones' care. Research has shown that when family members are involved, patients with serious mental illness stay better longer and have fewer relapses. The patient and therapist TOGETHER can specify what information can and cannot be shared.

Parents like "Frantic Mom in Philadelphia" become more anxious and depressed when they have no information on how to help their children, which creates additional family stress.

Parents who are financially supporting a child over the age of 21 may decide the conditions under which they will continue their support and pay for treatment. They may decide that one of those conditions is that they have some basic information from the patient and therapist about how they can help. I am NOT suggesting that the family should get access to their son's full records, but only that they should be given basic information on how to help and what to expect.

If an adult child objects to doctor-family communication, many families wrote to let me know that NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, offers a wealth of information and support for families and friends of people coping with the challenges of mental illness. NAMI's Web site is www.nami.org, and its toll-free helpline is (800) 950-6264.

DEAR ABBY: Over the past few years I have noticed a trend in the recorded phone messages of businesses I deal with over the course of a day. It is the use of the phrase, "We'll get back to you at our earliest convenience."

Abby, is it just me, or does that phrase imply that it's about their convenience and not their customers'? There was a time when the sentiment was, "We'll help you as soon as possible." Am I being too literal here?

BOB IN COSTA MESA, CALIF.

DEAR BOB: Many businesses rely on automated phone answering systems as a cost-saver because it means they don't have to hire someone to do it. It also allows the business owners to budget their time as they wish—regardless of the "needs" of the caller.

The fact that this offends you enough that you have written to me indicates that you are old enough to remember when customer service came first. Younger people may not be as sensitive to it as you are. But I agree with you that given a choice I, too, would prefer to deal with a human being.

There ain't nothin' like that personal touch. (Beep!)

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Father of Jamie Lynn Spears' baby injured in crash

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Louisiana State Police say Casey Aldridge, the father of actress Jamie Lynn Spears' baby, has been injured in an early morning one-vehicle crash. Master Trooper Billy Zeigler says

Aldridge was taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries after the 1:30 a.m. Sunday crash near the Mississippi-Louisiana state line.

Zeigler says Aldridge has been charged with misdemeanor

careless operation of a vehicle. Zeigler said it's unclear if others were in the vehicle.

Spears starred in the Nickelodeon TV series "Zoey 101" and is the younger sister of pop singer Britney Spears.

Jennifer Hudson gives Chicago homecoming concert

CHICAGO (AP)—Oscar and Grammy-winning singer Jennifer Hudson has given her first hometown concert since her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew were murdered in Chicago last year. Hudson sang Saturday night at a theater in Chi-

cago's McCormick Place.

She dedicated the song "You Pulled Me Through" to relatives in the audience and brought four cousins on stage to sing with her.

The bodies of her mother and brother were found Oct. 24 at their home on Chicago's South

Side. The body of nephew Julian King was found days later on the city's West Side.

The estranged husband of Hudson's sister, William Balfour, is charged in the murders.

Hudson is in the middle of a tour with singer Robin Thicke.

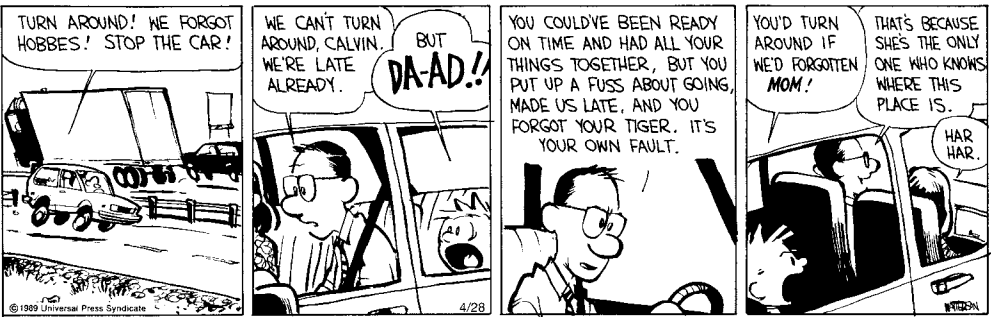


AP
Jennifer Hudson performs at Madison Square Garden's WaMu Theater, Friday, April 10, 2009 in New York.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

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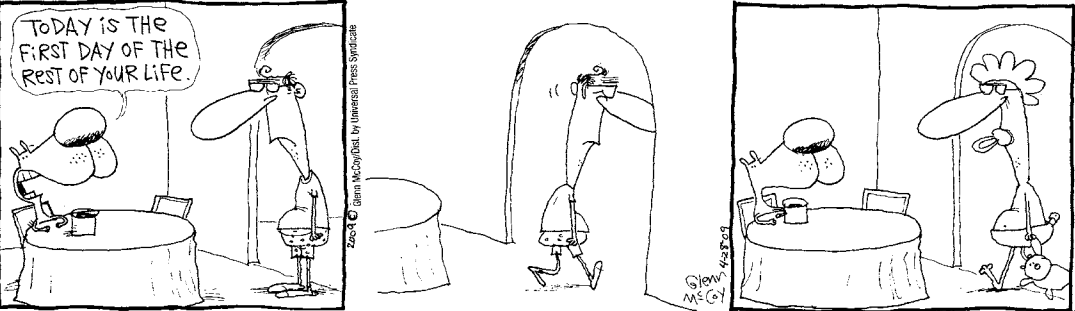
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Put together
5 Sleeve filler
8 Bloke
12 God-mother, often
13 Halloween shout
14 Judicial raiment
15 Medieval weapon
17 Terminator partner
18 Corrode
19 Household member
20 Biblical poem
21 Weep
22 Petrol
23 Bride's stuff
26 Showy display
30 Allegheny + Monongahela
31 Hula hoop, e.g.
32 Pedestal occupant
33 Lab creation?
35 AKC category

DOWN

1 Spiked club
36 Scatter seed
37 Coloring
38 Sad look
41 Gear tooth
42 That girl
45 Stromboli spillage
46 Saw type
48 List-end abbr.
49 Weeding tool
50 Cougar
51 "Wunnerful" band-leader
52 Unfriendly
53 Pumps up the volume
1 Ambience
3 Entanglement
4 UFO crew?
5 Westminster, e.g.
6 Source
7 Tend the lawn
8 Rapid, heated exchange of words
9 Georgetown athlete
10 First victim
11 Hair salon request
16 Agile
20 Zero-star review
21 Pedestrians' place
22 Peregrinate
23 Comic DeLuise
24 Discoverer's cry
25 Triumph
26 Distant
27 Expert
28 Shad product
29 Remnant
31 Hardly any
34 Heavy weight
35 Elmer's annoyer
37 Nonsense
38 Took off
39 Assess
40 Ellipse
41 Gator's cousin
42 Pond gunk
43 Igor's deformity
44 Greek vowels
46 Windy City, for short
47 Masseuse's workplace

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	N		J	A	B		F	E	T	A
U	F	O	S		A	W	L	O	M	I	T
M	A	G	I		G	O	O		R	U	N
P	R	O	X	Y		L	O	U	T		
				T	E	A		P	S	Y	C
				B	A	B	S	I	T	E	T
				A	L	U	M		M	A	P
				S	E	R	I	E		D	E
				H	E	R	N	I	A		W
					U	G	L	Y		E	V
				J	O	L	T		L	A	P
				E	R	I	E		O	W	E
				B	E	D	S		T	N	T
											D

Yesterday's answer 4-28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19			20			
			21			22				
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31			32			
33				34			35			
			36			37				
38	39	40			41			42	43	44
45				46			47			
48				49			50			
51				52			53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Alba, 28; Penelope Cruz, 35; Jay Leno, 59; Ann-Margret, 68

Happy Birthday: Don't let anyone discourage you when you know in your heart what needs to be done to reach your goals. Whoever reaches the finish line first will win and you aren't about to lose that race. Your passion, integrity and experience will help you muster up enough charisma and confidence to excel. Your numbers are 4, 10, 13, 23, 28, 32, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't stand back waiting for someone else to speak up on your behalf. You can make reforms that will have a huge impact on the people in your life. A relationship will suffer a power struggle. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Now is not the time to be lazy when it's vital that you have your facts straight. A lot can happen if poor information filters to people who love to spread rumors. Nip any misconception quickly, before you have to troubleshoot instead of being productive. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone's inability to be professional will cause unnecessary last-minute changes. You can use emotional tactics to get your way but do so knowing that you will probably pay the price later. Someone who knows you well will not like the way you are doing things. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't give away your secrets. You are better off listening to what everyone else has to say, especially if it pertains to people you know well.

Make your position clear but without favoritism, if you want to protect your position. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The truth is likely to be told if you have a meeting with someone who has been confusing you lately. You will be better equipped to turn things around once you understand what went wrong. You may have to admit your shortcomings in order to make amends. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your steady progress will be proof that you know what you are doing and that you can fix anything that is spinning out of control. Your guidance will be based on clear-cut vision, leading to greater respect and advancement. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you ask for too much, you may not get anything at all. If you make a mistake now, you will end up troubleshooting instead of accomplishing what you set out to do. Utilize your time wisely. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Face head-on whatever is going wrong. Problems at home may cause an added expense. Caution be taken when discussing your personal thoughts with housemates, landlords or neighbors. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep looking over your shoulder. Someone is probably trying to dismantle your plans or take over your job. Double check your work and follow through on every detail. Respond passionately to a relationship undergoing a lot of emotions. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Greater

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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security can be yours if you stick close to home and show your loyalty to the people who have stood up for you in the past. Renovations will add to your assets. Build a special place to work at home so you can spend more time with family. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be forced to answer hard questions. This is not the time to skirt issues. Your honesty will be what everyone wants to hear. Your true friends will stick by you, no matter what your decision. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Communication will help you finalize something you've been trying to do for a long time. Don't exaggerate or you may have to pay for misleading others. A family feud will start because someone has been keeping secrets. **

Birthday Baby: You are versatile, imaginative, assertive and ready for change. You are an excellent communicator and a willing candidate for adventure.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	2						4			
9	5						2	8		
		4	2		1	6				
		3		5		4				
			6		9					
		9		7		2				
		2	5		8	7				
3	7						1	9		
	6						5			

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	3	2	8	6	5	4	1	7
7	8	5	3	4	1	2	9	6
1	4	6	9	7	2	8	5	3
6	2	4	1	5	7	3	8	9
3	1	8	6	9	4	7	2	5
5	7	9	2	8	3	6	4	1
2	5	3	7	1	8	9	6	4
8	6	1	4	3	9	5	7	2
4	9	7	5	2	6	1	3	8

Difficulty Level ★ 4/27

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE Solution: 8 letters

S R W D A E L A R U T A N C C
I E N O I T A V R E S B O H T
L S P W R O D N E Y N N I A T
I E S A L L S D P O S M T R I
S A O U I I D R I E P I A I F
A R L N E N E T R A B I Z T O
L C I R E S A V N A N Y I I R
L H R V E N A Z H I L J N E P
I A A R O T E E N A R A A S N
R S V D I E L G T A O N G D O
O E F O S P R I M A T E R N N
G E N E V I E V E K C E O O A
N U G A N D A S O B O N O B I
O E T A V I T O M Y D U T S S
C P E A C E B M O G U I N E A

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Apes, Asian, Bonds, Bonobos, Book, Charities, Chimpanzees, Congo, Conservation, Doctor, Donation, Genevieve, Gombe, Gorillas, Guinea, Habitat, Help, Issues, Italy, Jane, Lead, Leone, Motivate, Natural, Nonprofit, Observation, Organization, Peace, Preserve, Primate, Research, Rodney, Save, Sierra, Study, Tanzania, Training, Uganda, World

Yesterday's Answer: Actinoid

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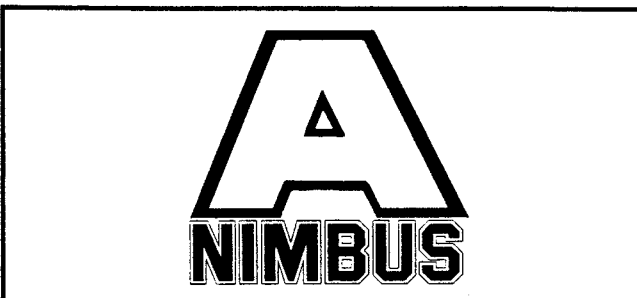
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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Lot 037 L 54	929 Square Meters vacant Land Obyan, Saipan	Appraised At \$20,400
Lot 010 K 215	929 Square Meters of Vacant Land Dandan Homestead, Saipan	Appraised At \$25,000
Lot 001 G128	738 Square Meters with tin house Kagman, Saipan	Appraised At \$29,000
Lot 001 G 46	768 Square Meters with semi concrete house Kagman, Saipan	Appraised At \$40,000
Lot EA 109 New 2-2	2,000 Square Meters Vacant Land Chalan Kiya, Saipan	Appraised At \$32,000
Lot 117-3-1-R1	2,329 Square Meters Vacant Land As Teo, Saipan	Appraised At \$25,000
Lot 252 T 05	2,000 Vacant Land Marpo Valley, Tinian	Make Offer
Lot 026 T 119	1,000 Square Meters Vacant Land Marpo Valley-Kanadan, Tinian	Make Offer
Lots 026 T47, T48, T49, T50	4,418 Square Meters Vacant Land Marpo, Tinian	Appraised At \$35,000
Lot 349 R 06	1,000 Square Meters of vacant land Sinapalo, Rota	Appraised At \$5,000
Tract 21769-3-R1	825 Square Meters of Vacant Land Ginalangan, Rota	Appraised At \$5,800
Tract No's 22142-1, 2,3,4, & 5	5,000 Square Meters Vacant Land Ginalangan, Rota	Appraised At \$25,000
Lot 419 R 04,05,09,10 & 11 Lot 422 R 03,04	Vacant Lands, Rota	Make Offer

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Gordon, Bulls beat Celtics in 2 OT



CHICAGO (AP)—Another playoff thriller between Chicago and Boston, and this one went to the Bulls.

Ben Gordon scored 22 points, hitting the tying 3-pointer in the first overtime, and the Bulls beat the Celtics 121-118 in double overtime Sunday to tie their first-round series at two games apiece.

The teams split two tight games in Boston, before the Celtics blew out the Bulls in Game 3. This time, they stretched the drama into a second overtime.

Derrick Rose added 23 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists. John Salmons scored 20 points after a slow start, hitting four free throws in the final 26 seconds of the game and blocking Paul Pierce's tying 3-pointer.

"Everybody I'm talking to is saying this is the most exciting series that they're watching right now," Gordon said.

It's tough to argue.

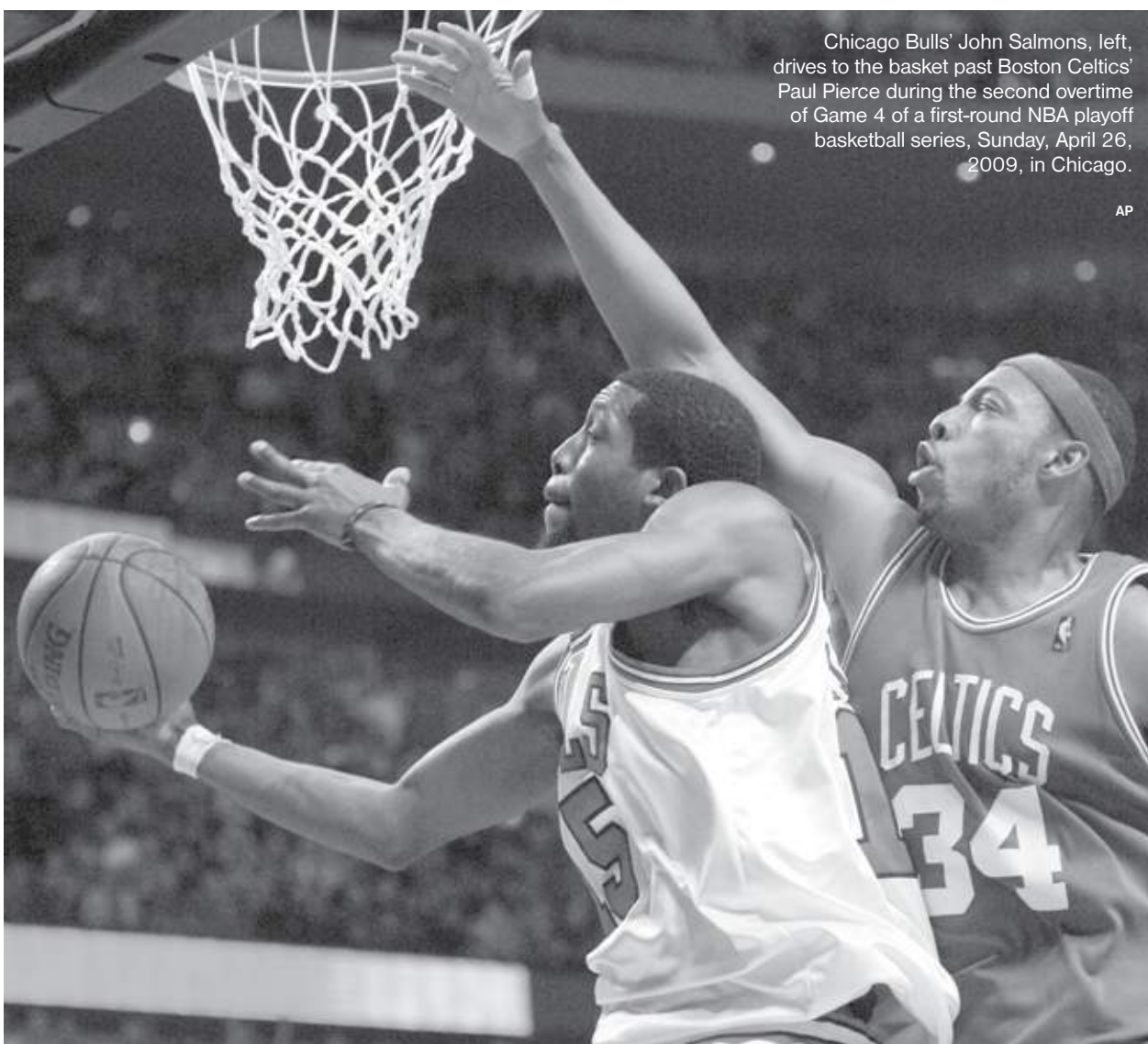
Boston's Ray Allen buried a 3-pointer with 9.8 seconds left in regulation to tie it at 96 before Rose missed a potential winning fadeaway in the closing seconds. Gordon came through with 4.5 seconds left in the first overtime, hitting a 3-pointer over Pierce to tie it at 110, and the Bulls never trailed in the second OT.

Salmons hit two free throws with 26.6 seconds left and, after a 3-pointer by Pierce, he hit two more at the line. After a timeout, Pierce got the ball on the left side but couldn't shake Salmons, who deflected his 3-pointer.

It was a dramatic end to another dramatic game. The series goes back to Boston on Tuesday, where the Bulls took Game 1 in overtime and the Celtics won Game 2 by three.

"It's 2-2 and we're in a fight," Boston's Rajon Rondo said. "Give them a lot of credit. They stuck with it. They fought back. They executed down the stretch very well and we didn't."

Pierce led Boston with 29 points, although he was just 9-for-24. Allen added 28, and Rajon Rondo again hounded the Bulls, finishing with 25 points, 11



Chicago Bulls' John Salmons, left, drives to the basket past Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce during the second overtime of Game 4 of a first-round NBA playoff basketball series, Sunday, April 26, 2009, in Chicago.

AP

rebounds and 11 assists—his second triple-double of the series.

Rose, who got outplayed by Rondo in the previous two games, again had trouble hanging onto the ball. He committed seven turnovers for the second straight time, but made up for it with some big shots down the stretch.

So did Gordon, who strained his left hamstring in the second quarter and is scheduled for an MRI on Monday.

Kirk Hinrich added 18 points off the bench while containing Pierce. Tyrus Thomas added 14 points and 10 rebounds, and Joakim Noah scored 12 while grabbing 10 boards. The Bulls

prevailed despite missing some key free throws down the stretch and were 26 of 35 overall.

"We've been here before," Allen said. "That's why it bothered me so much about this one, because we had opportunities. We were right there."

The Celtics were leading 105-100 in the first OT after baskets by Pierce and Allen, but the Celtics couldn't put away the Bulls.

Allen, who hit two free throws with 9 seconds left to make it 110-107, and then Gordon came through.

He got the ball near the top of the key and dribbled to his right, burying the

tying 3 over Pierce. Rondo then missed a jumper, sending it into a second OT.

Noah dunked over Glen Davis to make it a four-point game with 1:26 left. Pierce missed a 3-pointer, and with the crowd chanting his name, Noah made a free throw to make it 117-112 with 35 seconds remaining.

Pierce converted a three-point play to pull Boston within two, but Salmons came up big at the line before making the big block to preserve the win.

Cavaliers 99, Pistons 78

At Auburn Hills, Mich., LeBron James had 36 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists to lead Cleveland to a first-round sweep of Detroit.

The top-seeded Cavs might be off for more than a week, waiting for Atlanta or Miami to advance.

Detroit, meanwhile, will have its longest offseason since 2001 and about \$20 million in salary-cap space to rebuild a once-proud team.

Mo Williams scored a career playoff-high 24 for the Cavs. Detroit's Antonio McDyess had 26 points, tying a career playoff high.

Magic 84, 76ers 81

At Philadelphia, Hedo Turkoglu nailed a 3-pointer over Thaddeus Young with 1.1 seconds left to lift Orlando over Philadelphia, evening their Eastern Conference first-round series at two games apiece.

Dwight Howard had 18 points and 18 rebounds, and every Magic starter scored in double figures. Turkoglu and Rashard Lewis each added 17.

Andre Miller led the Sixers with 17 and Young had 15.

Game 5 of the best-of-seven series is Tuesday night in Orlando. The teams have alternated wins so far.

Rockets 89, Trail Blazers 88

At Houston, the Houston Rockets are one win away from finally escaping the first round, after Yao Ming had 21 points and 12 rebounds and the Rockets took a 3-1 lead.

Luis Scola scored 17 points and Shane Battier added 14 points and six assists for the Rockets, who snapped a six-game losing streak in Game 4s, coinciding with their 0-6 record in first-round series since 1998. Game 5 is Tuesday night in Portland.

Brandon Roy scored 31 points and went 13-for-13 from the free-throw line for the Blazers.

Jerry Kelly wins Zurich Classic by 1 stroke



AVON - DALE, La. (AP)—Jerry Kelly took the umbrella

from the parade marshal, donned his tasseled sash and danced his way off the 18th as the brass band played an exuberant Dixieland tune.

After enduring a seven-year winless streak, a determined charge by half-dozen young golfers, and a pair of bogeys that dropped him out of the lead, Kelly's 1-stroke victory in the Zurich Classic on Sunday was plenty of reason to celebrate.

"It's been a long time," said Kelly, who was showered with Mardi Gras beads by fans and presented with a large tray of char-broiled oysters by his favorite New Orleans restaurant. "I sometimes doubted if it was ever going to happen again."

Kelly rallied with two birdies on the back nine to claim the \$1.1 million payday on Sunday.

Kelly offset bogeys on No. 8 and No. 10 with birdies on Nos. 5, 11 and 14 for a 1-under 71 in the final round.

He finished with a 274, one stroke ahead of three players.

It was the 42-year-old Wisconsin player's first PGA Tour title since he won two in 2002—exactly 200 starts ago.

Charles Howell took advantage of Kelly's mid-round stumble with one of his six birdies on 11, which gave him a two-stroke lead. But bogeys at 15 and 17 left him with a 68 on the day, and he tied for second with Rory Sabbatini (67) and Charlie Wi (68).

"It's frustrating," said Howell. "I got up to 15, and had every chance to do it. I just couldn't finish it off."

Kelly, an admitted leaderboard watcher, said seeing Howell take a two stroke lead on No. 11 did not cause him to doubt himself.

"I knew what the back side had been doing to everybody all week," Kelly said. "And I had actually been playing the back side better."

Steve Marino, playing with Kelly, stayed within one shot until the 18th. Instead of getting the victory or forcing a playoff, he hit his tee shot into a fairway bunker and then needed two putts. He put up his third bogey and

finished at 70, tied for fifth at 276.

"I thought I hit a great third shot in there, and it just came off like half a club short in that bunker," Marino said. "And that was it."

Kelly, meanwhile, calmly rolled his final putt about 2 1/2 feet for his 13th par on the day and the championship. Despite the seven-year title drought, Kelly said he really didn't have trouble with his nerves until his final putt on 18. He said practicing deep-breathing techniques settled him down.

His first title since claiming the Sony Open and Advil Western Open in 2002 provided Kelly with his biggest payday ever. The winning purse moved Kelly from No. 97 to No. 14 on the money list with \$1.4 million. It also earns him full exempt status through 2011.

And it netted him 500 FedExCup points, moving him to 17th in the standings.

David Toms, who won this tournament in 2001, had five birdies for a 68 on the day after a bogey on the first hole. His 276 not only tied him with Marino, it boosted him in the FedExCup standings and into the Players Championship.

Jets contacted Burress' agent before draft

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—The New York Jets, in the market for a wide receiver, called Plaxico Burress' agent before the NFL draft to look into the former Giants star's legal troubles.

Burress was released by the Giants on April 3, just over four months after the Super Bowl hero accidentally shot himself in the thigh with an unlicensed gun in a New York City nightclub.

Burress, 31, faces at least 3 1/2 years in prison if convicted on a felony weapons charge. He's due back in court on June 15.

Jets general manager Mike Tannenbaum said late Sunday night that "consistent with our normal approach of performing our due diligence, we contacted Drew Rosenhaus several days ago, prior to the draft, to inquire about Plaxico's pending legal situation."

Tannenbaum added that the Jets haven't spoken with Rosenhaus about Burress since.

Rosenhaus didn't immediately respond to a voice mail and e-mail left for him by The Associated Press seeking comment.

ESPN first reported Sunday that the Jets had internal talks about the

possibility of signing Burress.

One of New York's biggest holes entering the draft was at wide receiver, where Jericho Cotchery is the only proven veteran after the Jets allowed Laveranues Coles to become a free agent. They didn't address the position over the weekend, instead trading up Saturday to take quarterback Mark Sanchez with the fifth overall pick and again moving up to take running back Shonn Greene with the first selection of the third round Sunday. They took offensive lineman Matt Slauson in the sixth round with their only other pick.

Burress would give the Jets an experienced player with much needed height - he's 6-foot-5—at the position, but he certainly would come with lots of baggage. Burress was suspended by the Giants for the final four weeks of last season for conduct detrimental to the team and fined after the shooting. He also faces possible NFL sanctions for violating its personal conduct policy.

He has 505 career receptions for 7,845 yards and 55 touchdowns in nine seasons with the Giants and Pittsburgh Steelers.



Ellsbury steals home, Red Sox sweep Yankees



At Boston, Jacoby Ellsbury stole home and the Boston Red Sox ran off with a three-game sweep of the New York Yankees, 4-1, Sunday.

Boston's speedster surprised left-hander Andy Pettitte with his dash in a three-run fifth inning that gave the Red Sox their 10th straight win.

They came from behind in all three games and trailed Sunday on Brett Gardner's sacrifice fly in the third. But the Red Sox tied it on a sacrifice fly by David Ortiz in the bottom of the inning.

In the fifth, Ortiz doubled in the go-ahead run before Kevin Youkilis was walked intentionally to load the bases. As Pettitte began his windup with J.D. Drew at bat, Ellsbury raced home and slid in headfirst ahead of Jorge Posada's tag. Drew then made it 4-1 with a ground-rule double.

Blue Jays 4, White Sox 3

At Chicago, Scott Rolen hit a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth inning, helping the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Chicago White Sox 4-3 Sunday to secure their sixth straight series win this season.

Rod Barajas had three hits for the Blue Jays, who have won eight of 11 games.

Vernon Wells led off the eighth with a double off White Sox reliever Scott Linebrink (0-1). Adam Lind walked then Rolen drove in Wells.

After a shaky start, Toronto ace Roy Halladay (4-1) settled down and retired 12 of the last 14 batters he faced.

He allowed three runs and scattered eight in seven innings. Halladay had six strikeouts and walked his first batter in two starts.

Orioles 8, Rangers 5

At Baltimore, Adam Jones hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning and Baltimore rallied for a victory.

With one out, Cesar Izturis was hit on his left foot and Brian Roberts singled to left before Jones hit an 0-1 slider from reliever Jason Jennings (0-1) into the seats in left-center to give Baltimore a 7-5 lead. Jones' third homer completed the Orioles' comeback from a 5-1 deficit.

Chris Davis, David Murphy and Hank Blalock connected for the Rangers, who lead the major leagues with 38 home runs and have hit two or more in a game 14 times this season, also most in the majors.

Danys Baez (1-1) got the victory with three hitless innings. George Sherrill worked the ninth for his fourth save.

Indians 4, Twins 2

At Cleveland, Aaron Laffey pitched into the seventh inning and rookie Tony Sipp came up with two big strikeouts, helping Cleveland avoid a three-game sweep.

Laffey (2-0) allowed two runs and five hits in 6 1-3 innings.

The Indians were held to one run in each of the first two games of the series, but Ryan Garko's two-run single off Glen Perkins (1-2) in the third gave them a 4-0 lead.

It was the shortest outing of the year for Perkins, who allowed four runs in five innings.

Tigers 3, Royals 2

At Kansas City, Mo., Brandon Inge hit a two-run homer and Armando Galarraga

pitched six solid innings for Detroit.

Inge connected in the second, driving a 1-1 pitch from Sidney Ponson (0-3) out to left with Jeff Larish aboard after a single. It was his seventh of the year.

Galarraga (3-0) allowed one run and three hits, struck out seven and walked five.

Jose Guillen singled in Coco Crisp in the third but the Royals left the bases loaded when Alberto Callaspo ground-

Juan Rivera hit his first home run of the season. Torii Hunter had three hits, including an RBI single, to raise his average to .338.

Phillies 13, Marlins 2

At Miami, Shane Victorino drove in four runs, Jamie Moyer pitched six solid innings and the Philadelphia Phillies extended the Florida Marlins' skid to six with a victory.

Derrek Lee hit an RBI double in Chicago's three-run first but left the game before the Cubs took the field in the bottom half because of neck spasms. Micah Hoffpauir replaced him at first base and homered in the seventh.

Diamondbacks 5, Giants 4, 12 innings

At Phoenix, Conor Jackson hit a bases-loaded single in the 12th inning to

homer in the seventh.

Cincinnati avoided its first three-game skid of the season and prevented the Braves' first four-game winning streak.

Kenshin Kawakami (1-3) allowed eight runs and eight hits in 4 2-3 innings for Atlanta.

Astros 3, Brewers 2

At Houston, Ivan Rodriguez hit a tie-breaking homer in the fourth inning and the Astros snapped the Brewers' four-game winning streak.

Rodriguez helped Houston end a three-game skid with a full-count drive over the left-field wall off Manny Parra (0-4). It was Rodriguez's second homer of the season.

Russ Ortiz (2-0) pitched five innings and improved to 6-0 at Minute Maid Park. He allowed two runs and four hits. Jose Valverde pitched the ninth for his second save in four opportunities.

Milwaukee activated closer Trevor Hoffman from the disabled list before the game but didn't use him against Houston. Hoffman started the season on the DL with a strained right oblique.

Nationals 8, Mets 1

At New York, Jordan Zimmermann showed off the sharp stuff that has Washington so excited about his future, and the Nationals earned their first road victory this season.

Jesus Flores homered and drove in three runs against his former club, Austin Kearns also teed off on an ineffective Oliver Perez and the Nationals improved the majors' worst record to 4-13 by snapping a three-game skid.

One of baseball's top prospects, the 22-year-old Zimmermann (2-0) struck out slumping David Wright three times and allowed one run and six hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Perez (1-2) lasted just 4 1-3 innings for New York. He gave up seven runs and nine hits.

Rockies 10, Dodgers 4

At Denver, Ryan Spillborghs homered and drove in three runs for Colorado, and Clint Barmes added a two-run shot.

Jeff Baker had a bases-loaded triple for the Rockies, who dropped the first five meetings between the two teams this year.

Jason Marquis (3-1) worked 7 1-3 innings and gave up three runs and six hits.

Clayton Kershaw (0-2) lasted only 4 2-3 innings, allowing nine runs and eight hits. The Dodgers had won three straight and 11 of 13.

Manny Ramirez and Rafael Furcal got the day off for Los Angeles.

Pirates 8, Padres 3

At San Diego, Ross Ohlendorf pitched into the eighth inning and Adam LaRoche hit two home runs, lifting Pittsburgh to the victory.

Ohlendorf (2-2) gave up a long two-run homer to Adrian Gonzalez in the first inning before settling down. He allowed only two more hits over the next six innings before Edgar Gonzalez knocked him out of the game with a pinch-hit homer leading off the eighth.

LaRoche hit a three-run shot off Jake Peavy (2-3) that broke a 2-all tie in the fifth. He later added a solo homer in the ninth off rookie Luis Perdomo for his fifth home run as the Pirates won for the fifth time in six games. LaRoche also walked twice and scored two runs.



Boston Red Sox's Jacoby Ellsbury is congratulated by teammates after stealing home with the bases loaded off New York Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte in the fifth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park, Sunday, April 26, 2009, in Boston.

ed out. Kansas City is 2-for-17 with the bases loaded this season.

Athletics 7, Rays 1

At Oakland, Calif., Kurt Suzuki drove in three runs, Dana Eveland pitched into the sixth inning and the Athletics beat Tampa Bay.

Every Oakland starter got at least one hit and seven different players scored for the A's, who won their second straight after a season-high five-game skid.

After failing to make it out of the fourth in each of his previous two starts, Eveland (1-1) allowed one run and four hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Andy Sonnanstine (0-3), who has gone 11 consecutive regular-season starts without a win. The right-hander gave up 10 hits.

Angels 8, Mariners 0

At Anaheim, Calif., Howie Kendrick homered and had a career-high four RBIs, Jered Weaver combined with two relievers on a five-hitte, and the Angels avoided a three-game sweep.

Weaver (2-1) allowed three hits over seven innings.

Kendrick had a pair of RBI singles in addition to his two-run homer in the second inning against former Angels left-hander Jarrod Washburn (3-1). Washburn was charged with six runs and eight hits over 5 1-3 innings

Florida, which began the season 11-1, is mired in its longest losing streak since an eight-game slide from Aug. 15-22, 2007. The Marlins' latest loss got so out of hand that outfielder Cody Ross pitched a scoreless ninth inning.

Moyer (3-1) allowed one run and seven hits to improve to 7-0 at Dolphin Stadium and 12-1 against the Marlins overall.

Pedro Feliz had three hits, two RBIs and scored two runs for Philadelphia.

Graham Taylor (0-1) lasted just 3 2-3 innings in his major league debut for Florida. He walked six and hit a batter with a pitch while allowing four runs and four hits.

Cubs 10, Cardinals 3

At St. Louis, Kosuke Fukudome hit a three-run homer and drove in five on his 32nd birthday, leading Chicago to the victory.

Fukudome went 3-for-4 to hike his average to .371 after hitting .257 last season. He hit his fourth homer in the eighth to finish the scoring.

Rich Harden (2-1) struck out nine in six innings for the Cubs, who ended a four-game skid. He allowed two runs and four hits.

Yadier Molina and Rick Ankiel hit solo homers for St. Louis, which had won nine straight home games. Todd Wellemeyer (1-2) was tagged for six runs, five earned, and eight hits in five innings.

give Arizona the victory.

The Diamondbacks tied it at 4 with a three-run ninth, capped by Justin Upton's two-run homer off closer Brian Wilson.

The winning rally began when former Diamondbacks reliever Brandon Medders (0-1) walked leadoff man Miguel Montero. Montero moved up on Chris Young's bunt, and Medders walked Felipe Lopez intentionally and Augie Ojeda unintentionally to load the bases.

San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy summoned Justin Miller, who gave up a line drive single to Jackson to deep left field.

Juan Gutierrez (1-1) pitched the 12th for the Diamondbacks, who salvaged the finale of a three-game series.

Reds 8, Braves 2

At Cincinnati, Jay Bruce homered twice and drove in four runs to help Cincinnati avoid a three-game sweep.

Micah Owings earned his first win in nearly a year with seven strong innings. Joey Votto had two doubles and three RBIs.

Owings (1-2), acquired in the trade that sent Adam Dunn to Arizona, also had two hits while earning his first win since a 9-3 victory for Arizona at Atlanta on May 25. The right-hander limited the Braves to one run and six hits Sunday.

Former Reds catcher David Ross broke up Owings' shutout bid with a

Spring beach volleyball league opens next month



Beach volleyball action will be back on Saipan after a month-long break with the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association holding

Mt. Carmel Golf tourney on May 9

The 7th Annual Mount Carmel School Golf Tournament is set for May 9 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Registration is set for 6:30am and tee time is an hour later at 7:30am. The competition was originally slated last March 14, but was moved to next month due to scheduling problems.

Trophies and other gift prizes will be given to the Top 3 winners in the Championships, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors Flight, and Ladies Flight.

An awards banquet will be held immediately following the tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort grounds.

Although the tournament has no entry fee, participants are requested to donate \$100 to help support the only Catholic school on Saipan. The donation will cover green and cart fees, as well as prizes and the awards banquet.

For more information about the Mount Carmel School Golf Tournament, call Louise Concepcion at 235-1285 or Margaret Dela Cruz at 235-1251. (PR)

JOHNSON

From Page 28

6-0, 6-0, and Jodel Fernandez, 6-3, 6-0. Dina placed second.

Heo also had a shutout win in the finals against Tinian's Benjie

18 COMPLETE

From Page 28

entries, respectively.

Kento Akimaru was the top finisher in the boys' 6 to 9 division, timing in at 29 minutes and 16 seconds. The course for the 6 to 9 age group consisted of one lap each of the swim (about 50 meters at Micro Beach), bike, and run legs. Akimaru clocked in at 1:46 in the swim part and 11:20 and 16:50 in the bike and run portions, respectively.

OCEANIA

From Page 28

Oceania Athletics Association. Besides finishing on top of the race, the two athletes must meet eligibility requirements to make it to the Gold Coast event.

The qualifier will start at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility before participants head to Beach Road. Runners will turn left and head south to the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Luther Taylor, is seen here returning the ball while teammate Dan Westphal looks on during their game against Russ Quinn and Bruce Berline in the NMIVA Two-man Beach Volleyball League at Pacific Islands Club sand court early this year. Beach volleyball action returns at PIC next month with the staging of the 4-person fall league.

the 2009 PIC-Miller/Gatorade Spring 4-Person Beach Volleyball League next month.

The last time NMIVA brought beach volleyball action on island was in March with the staging of the 17th Marianas

Cup Beach Volleyball Festival.

The Marianas Cup featured pros from the U.S., Korea, and Japan teaming up with local players in a two-person tournament.

Next month's four-person

PIC to host 3-on-3 soccer tournament



On May 16 and 17, Pacific Islands Club Saipan will host the 8th Annual PIC 3 vs. 3 Soccer Tournament.

The first day will consist of pool play and the second day will be a double-elimination bracket. Registration and warm-up will begin at 9am on Saturday.

Players will be ranked as "1" (advanced) "2" (intermediate) or "3" (beginner.) Each team will consist of one randomly drawn player from each category. Players of all ability are welcome but must be 15 years or older.

Players need to pre-register at PIC. Registration forms will be available at the Information

league will have local bets battling each other at the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

A draft banquet will be held this Thursday to have a balance competition.

The league will have its first game on May 5 and the regular season will end on June 11.

Playoffs will start on June 12. Format and schedule will be announced later.

NMIVA last hosted a 4-person beach volleyball league in October, holding the 2008 Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball Fall League

Acme Roofing ruled the fall league after beating Enyophace in the title match, 15-21, 21-17, 15-10.

Acme Roofing topped Thai One On in the semifinals to gain the first finals slot. Enyophace defeated Karakuchi in the other semis duel to set the stage for the title showdown between the top two teams in the league. Enyophace finished second to Acme Roofing in the regular season with a 9-1 slate. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

Center or the SEA office. The entry fee is \$15 per player. Cost includes a water park pass for each day of the tournament.

The entry deadline is May 14 at 5pm. No late entries will be accepted.

For more information, contact Lindsey Sosovec at 235-6231 ext 5147 or email at sportsmanager@picsaipan.com. (PR)

weekend tournament: Deloitte, Tano Group, Deepstar Submarine, Java Joe's, Spectrum Electric, Marianas Medical Center, Law Offices of Stephen J. Nutting, C.N. Lee International, Tan Holdings, and Aces Tennis Academy.

clocked in at 56:04. Gabrielle Race tallied 1:04:23.

Braig finished the two-lap swim leg in 2:31, timed in at 18:29 in the bike part and 28:16 in the run portion. Daly had 2:80 in the swim leg, 20:44 in the bike portion, and 37:40 in the run part. Race logged 3:54 in the swim portion, 28:19 in the big part, and 33:10 in the run leg.

There was a two-man race in the 13 to 15 age group with Nura-din Gutzwiller-Malakut outlasting Clay McCullough-Stearns.

Gutzwiller-Malakut complet-

pants to join the 2009 Half Marathon Championship, which is a qualifier for the Oceania tournament. NMA with the assistance of the Oceania Athletics Association will help provide for airfare costs and food and accommodations for two athletes who must meet the eligibility requirements to represent the CNMI and compete in this event," NMA said in a press release.

"Others interested in participating in the Gold Coast event need

ed the three-lap swim leg in 6:42, three-lap bike portion in 27:35, and three-lap run part in 41:18 for a total time of 1:15:36. He was more than four minutes ahead of McCullough-Stearns, who logged 1:19:19. McCullough-Stearns posted 6:46 in the swim part, 28:41 in the bike portion, and 44:32 in the run leg.

All finishers received medals, while the Top 3 winners in each age group were given trophies during the Tagaman awards ceremony Saturday night at the Pacific Islands Club.

to pay only for their airfare. OAA will provide food and accommodations," the release added.

Besides the marathon and half marathon races, the Gold Coast event will also feature a wheelchair half marathon, Southern Cross University 10km Run, and the 2.25-km and 4-km junior races.

For more information about the qualifier, contact Allen Moses at 287-4907 or Elias Rangamar at 664-2502.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	14	6	.700	-
Boston	12	6	.667	1
New York	9	9	.500	4
Baltimore	9	10	.474	4 1/2
Tampa Bay	7	12	.368	6 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	10	8	.556	-
Chicago	9	9	.500	1
Kansas City	9	9	.500	1
Minnesota	9	10	.474	1 1/2
Cleveland	7	12	.368	3 1/2

West Division

Seattle	12	7	.632	-
Texas	8	10	.444	3 1/2
Oakland	7	10	.412	4
Los Angeles	7	11	.389	4 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	11	7	.611	-
Philadelphia	9	8	.529	1 1/2
Atlanta	9	9	.500	2
New York	8	10	.444	3
Washington	4	13	.235	6 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	13	6	.684	-
Pittsburgh	11	7	.611	1 1/2
Cincinnati	10	8	.556	2 1/2
Chicago	9	8	.529	3
Milwaukee	8	10	.444	4 1/2
Houston	7	12	.368	6

West Division

Los Angeles	13	6	.684	-
San Diego	10	8	.556	2 1/2
San Francisco	8	9	.471	4
Arizona	7	11	.389	5 1/2
Colorado	6	11	.353	6

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 13, Florida 2	
Washington 8, N.Y. Mets 1	
Cincinnati 8, Atlanta 2	
Houston 3, Milwaukee 2	
Chicago Cubs 10, St. Louis 3	
Colorado 10, L.A. Dodgers 4	
Pittsburgh 8, San Diego 3	
Arizona 5, San Francisco 4, 12 innings	
Cleveland 4, Minnesota 2	
Baltimore 8, Texas 5	
Toronto 4, Chicago White Sox 3	
Detroit 3, Kansas City 2	
L.A. Angels 8, Seattle 0	
Oakland 7, Tampa Bay 1	
Boston 4, N.Y. Yankees 1	

ZURICH CLASSIC SCORES

FINAL ROUND

Jerry Kelly	68	66	69	71	274
Rory Sabbatini	70	67	71	67	275

By The Associated Press

TAGAMAN

From Page 28

Jack "The Road Runner Bunny" submitted the second best time in the run portion of the race with his 1:05:49, but he and swimmer Andrew Buitrago (26:46) and biker Florence Antonio (1:55:57) only finished third.

Completing the Top 5 were the teams of Katsuo Kawamura and Kiyoko Takahashi and Grace Kimball, Tim Lang, and Gabbie Owen

Kawamura did the swim (35:12) and bike (1:56:15) legs and Takahashi finished the race, posting the best time in the run portion in the relay at 1:03:11 for the fourth best time of 3:34:38.

Grace Kimball of Saipan Swim Club was seventh overall in the swim leg, timing in at 30:45, while Lang and Owen logged 1:55:33 and 1:35:02 in the bike and run portions, respectively, for the team's total time of 4:01:20.

Grace's brother, Andrew, teamed up with Tinian's Janet King and John Douglas and

the group finished sixth with a total time of 4:03:03. Andrew, the youngest participant in the swim leg at 11, was the 10th overall finisher out of 69 swimmers, clocking in at 30:51. King posted 2:16:31, while Douglas recorded 1:15:41

Rounding out to the Top 10 were the teams of Felipe Pedernal and Diony Peralta (4:03:49); Russ and Kanae Quinn (4:07:22); Gary de Guzman, Bernard Laborce, and Pete Villaga (4:09:35); and Monica Yamaguchi and Jeffrey Diyco (4:09:49).

Other finishers were Jeffrey Taylor, Ben Babauta, and Ming Liu (4:10:34); David Baker, John Jenkins, and Paul Viator (4:20:53); Jim Arenovski, Steven Nutting, and Michael Johnson (4:28:11); Masahide Tsuda, Takayuki Karasawa, and Harumi Sugihashi (4:32:31); Minerva Cabrera, Raymund Tolentino, and Heartim Williams (4:33:35); Eun-Jung Kim and Byeung-Ju An (4:34:30); Kei Nakajima, Yumi Nishikawa, and Erika Okushi (5:18:46); and Susan Marchitti, Dave Burger, and Gary Schiff (5:23:51).

20th Tagaman Triathlon



MARK RABAGO

Japan's Masayuki Matsumaru is all smiles moments after crossing the finish line at the American Memorial Park in last Saturday's 20th Tagaman Triathlon.



MARK RABAGO

Tyce Mister was the first Saipan triathlete to cross the line in last Saturday's 20th Tagaman Triathlon.

Japan's Masayuki Matsumaru, right, and Switzerland's Renata Bucher topped the men's and women's divisions of last Saturday's 20th Tagaman Triathlon. It was Bucher's second straight Tagaman win, while Matsumaru finally won the race after two bridesmaid finishes.

MARK RABAGO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Matt Mancao catches his breath, as he begins the run leg of the 20th Tagaman Triathlon Saturday at the American Memorial Park.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

United Kingdom's Sam Gardner in action during the swim portion of last Saturday's 20th Tagaman Triathlon. He finished fourth in the swim.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Noriko Takano of Japan turns right to Grotto from Bird Island en route to finishing third overall in the women's division.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Pacific Islands Club general manager Kieran Daly smiles as injured Mieke Carey passes him in this stage of the bike race.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Tyce Mister, Kieran Daly, Mieke Carey, Nate Hawley, and Kevin Carey enjoy a light moment before the start of the swim leg in the 20th Tagaman Triathlon at Pacific Islands Club Saturday.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Jim McConnel of the United Kingdom is in front of relay champion Renato Calage of Saipan.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Lewie Tenorio makes a turn at the back of Hyatt Regency Saipan for the run leg of the 20th Tagaman Triathlon Saturday.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Deposed champion Andrew Noble of Australia labors hard on the bike after the turn at the Grotto in Marpi.



Spring beach volleyball league opens next month

Beach volleyball action will be back on Saipan after a month-long break with the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association holding the 2009 PIC-Miller/Gatorade Spring 4-Person Beach Volleyball League next month.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Gordon, Bulls beat Celtics in 2 OT

Another playoff thriller between Chicago and Boston, and this one went to the Bulls.

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28 TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI runners are seen here competing in a qualifying tournament for the All Schools meet at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility early this month. This Saturday, the facility will be the starting and ending points for the 2009 Half Marathon Championship.

Oceania half marathon slots at stake in Saturday race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two slots for a regional tournament will be at stake when Northern Marianas Athletics holds the 2009 Half Marathon Championship this Saturday.

The top finisher in the men's and women's divisions of the qualifying race will earn a chance to represent the CNMI to the 2009 Oceania

Area Marathon & Half Marathon Championship.

Also dubbed as the 31st Annual Gold Coast Airport Marathon, the regional tournament will be held on July 5, 2009 in Gold Coast, Australia.

The two Commonwealth athletes who will qualify for the tournament Down Under will get an all-expense paid trip to Australia, courtesy of the

See OCEANIA on Page 26



Johnson, Jones jolt rivals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Melody Johnson and Rafael Jones pulled off contrasting wins to lead four other players on the champions list in the 2009 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Johnson waltzed her way to the girls' 14-and-under title via a straight sets win over the diminutive Neghar Rastguiy, 6-2, 6-0, while Jones took the long route to the Promise Land, outlasting perennial rival Christian Miller in three sets.

Miller, who downed Jones in the finals of the PIC netfest, 6-2, 6-3, took the opening set with an impressive 6-1 victory. But Miller failed to notch his second straight victory over Jones, who stunned his foe with a similar 6-4, 6-4 win in the last two sets.

Jones advanced to the title match after topping Jake Lee, 6-2, 6-3, while Miller nailed the second finals seat after a 6-3, 6-0 triumph over Chris Cajigan. Lee won third place after thwarting Cajigan in the consolation match, 6-3, 6-4.

In the battle for third place in the girls' 14-and-under division, Jean Bracken outclassed Amy Arenovski, 8-6.

Bracken ran out of steam in her semifinal game against Rastguiy, allowing the latter to win and move into the title match against Johnson. Rastguiy ruled the opening set, 6-1, and was leading at 2-0 when Bracken retired.

Johnson also had an easier



Rastguiy



Johnson

semis win, thumping Arenovski in straight sets, 6-1, 6-2.

In the 10-and-under division, Carl Dela Cruz and Emily Jones eased past separate foes to join Johnson and Rafael on the winners list.

Dela Cruz whipped Colin Ramsey in the boys' 10-and-under finals, 6-2, while Emily defeated Carol Lee in similar scores in the girls division.

Dela Cruz gained a finals berth after winning over Morris Villanueva in the semifinals, 6-3. The other semis pairing had

Ramsey walloping Alex Park, 6-1. Villanueva topped Park, 6-2, to settle for third place.

Carol foiled another Emily-Tammy Ackerman title showdown in the girls' 10-and-under after the former downed Ackerman in

the semis, 6-3. Emily advanced to the finals via a 7-6 (8-6) win over Imapa Sakuma. Ackerman was relegated to third place after beating Sakuma, 6-2.

Favored Ji Hoon Heo and Thea Minor lived up to expectations en route to claiming the 18-and-under division titles.

Minor went undefeated in the round-robin girls' 18-and-under division, topping Dina Jones and sister Theecl in similar scores,

See JOHNSON on Page 26



Tagaman relay also belongs to Rezne and company

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Swimmer Rezne Wong and biker Renato Calage took a

different runner in Cesar Danao, but still produced the same results, topping the relay division of the 20th Tagaman Triathlon.

Wong of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and Calage, who won the relay race in the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship with Matt Mancao as their runner, posted the fastest times in the 1.5-kilometer swim (25:25) and 60-km bike (1:49:23) legs for relay to give their team the needed cushion.



MARK RABAGO

From left, Rezne Wong, Renato Calage, and Cesar Danao pose after finishing first in the relay division of last Saturday's 20th Tagaman Triathlon.

Danao capped the title win in the 15-km run part, timing in at 1:08:15 (third best) for the team's total time of three hours, 23 minutes, 03 seconds.

The trio was more than three minutes ahead of second placers Cooper Graf, Butch Sublemente, and Tom Linden.

Cooper was second overall out of the PIC waters with his time of 26:33, while Sublemente finished second (relay only) in the bike leg, submitting 1:50:03. Sublemente could have recorded a better time than Calage, but the former had a flat tire midway in the race. Linden tallied only the fourth best time (1:10:08) in the run leg of the relay for a second best time of 3:26:44.

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18 complete Taga Kids Triathlon



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Eighteen youth athletes had their share of 20th Tagaman Triathlon experience, as they completed the shortened version of the race Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

The 6 to 9 age group division of the 2009 Taga Kids Triathlon drew the most participants with 12, while the 10 to 12 division and 13 to 15 had three and two

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Maxi Braig crosses the finish line of the Taga Kids Triathlon Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO